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# Saipan Tribune

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**INSIDE**

**BUSINESS**



The electrical waste thrown out annually is seen to grow by a third by 2017.

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**ASIA**



Nearly nine out of 10 fatalities of Typhoon Haiyan remained unidentified.

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**LIFE & STYLE**



James Cameron says his vision for his "Avatar" sequels is to create an epic.

► PAGE 21

## DEFENSE TECHNIQUES

Cpl. Kristopher Biegel, pointing, simulates locking on to an aircraft with a Fl-92 stinger launcher on Dec. 11 at Tinian's North Field during a professional military education class to crewmembers with Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 participating in Exercise Forager Fury II. The PME went over the functions and capabilities of the Fl-92. The HSC-25 crew is stationed at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. Biegel is Low Altitude Air Defensive gunner with 2nd LAAD, currently assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.

LANCE CPL. ANTONIO RUBIO



# E-gaming on Saipan now law

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed into law on Friday a bill allowing the operation of electronic gaming machines in hotels on Saipan, ending months of discussions and compromises between the House, the Senate and the administration. Others describe it as legalization of "stealth casino gambling" on Saipan.

The newly-signed Public Law 18-30 amends the definition of gambling device "to exclude electronic gaming."

The governor said he approved the measure to assist the CNMI in meeting its obligations to the Settlement Fund and the NMI Retirement Fund.

But the governor said he is concerned about the reduction of fees



to \$2,500 per poker machine for those situated in hotels involved in electronic gaming.

Currently, the license fee per poker machine on Saipan is \$12,500 and the governor was concerned that the new electronic gaming measure would reduce the fees for poker machines.

See E-GAMING on Page 4

## » Government issues 3 RFPs for video lottery

## 3 men rob Happy Market in As Lito

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

A security guard sustained serious injuries after three masked men, one reportedly armed with a gun, robbed Happy Market along Martinez Road in As Lito early Friday morning.

The suspects took off with \$7,992 in cash and \$2,800 worth of cigarettes, according to the store's owner, Huang Fang. The store was closed at the time.

In an interview yesterday, Fang said their security guard, a Bangladeshi national named Rahman, was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center due to a dislocated left shoulder and other injuries.

## » Security guard seriously injured

The Department of Public Safety has yet to release information about the robbery.

Fang said that one suspect, described as large and possibly local, was wearing a mask with a tiger design. She disclosed that the two other suspects, described as both skinny, are possibly Chinese as the guard overheard them saying "Hurry up! Hurry up!" in Chinese.

Fang said she received a call from police on Friday at 4:40am that Happy Market had been robbed and that their security guard was beaten up.

It is not clear whether the suspects were armed with a baseball bat, a gun, or both.

See 3 MEN on Page 4

## Increased DoD control over NMI property conflicts with Covenant'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the U.S. Department of Defense's efforts to increase control over property belonging to the

CNMI is "in conflict and contrary to Section 802 of the Covenant" that established the Northern Marianas' political relationship with the United States. His administration is also "deeply concerned" about the proposed military activities' impact

on CNMI marine wildlife, particularly marine mammals "which remain grossly understudied in the region."

Inos submitted comments to the U.S. Navy's draft environmental impact statement for the Mariana Islands Training

and Testing, or MITT, area.

His 11-page letter was dated Dec. 11, a day before the deadline for comments submission.

The governor said he and many of

See PROPERTY on Page 4

**'Despite lack of mandates, ACA beneficial to CNMI' PAGE 2  
Lawsuit vs DPL, Finance over COP land lease dismissed. PAGE 3**

# BLU CHRISTMAS



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# Local



MARK RABAGO  
Consumer advocacy officer Caitlyn Neisis-Mocano and Rate Review Office project manager Brian Sers Nicholas served as guests in last Friday's Society for Human Resources Management-NMI Chapter's monthly meeting at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

## 'Despite lack of mandates, ACA beneficial to CNMI'

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

While acknowledging that the CNMI is at a disadvantage when it implements the Affordable Care Act in 2014 because of the lack of individual and employer mandates, Department of Commerce staff were one in saying that the ACA will ultimately benefit the islands.

"We really don't have a choice. It's a federal law. The CNMI can take over control of implementation or the federal government can come in and control implementation. That being said, there are many benefits from implementing the Affordable Care Act because it sets a benchmark for the CNMI for health insurance regulation," consumer advocacy officer Caitlyn Neisis-Mocano told *Saipan Tribune* following Friday's Society for Human Resources Management-NMI Chapter's monthly meeting at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Neisis-Mocano, who works for Commerce's Consumer Assistance Program, and Rate Review Office project manager Brian Sers Nicholas served as guest speakers of the SHRM meeting.

Neisis-Mocano said that before ACA came into play, health insurance regulation was virtually nonexistent in the Commonwealth, which is one reason why the islands are having difficulty with the federal law.

"[Under the ACA in the CNMI] the individual and employer mandates don't exist. But there are market reforms so insurance companies have to follow more strict rules. They have to offer more benefits coverage and there are more consumer protections as well," said Neisis-Mocano. "I know a lot of people in the CNMI have pre-existing conditions like diabetes, hypertension...and they can get coverage."

One problem she foresees is if insurance carriers decide to stop offering individual coverage next year because of the complications of ACA's implementation in the Commonwealth.

"Then they will only be able to get coverage if their employers offer them coverage. That's a problem that the CNMI government needs to negotiate with legislators and maybe make it more appealing for insurance carriers to offer an individual plan so we can make sure that everyone gets coverage," she said.

Neisis-Mocano said the lack of individual and employer

mandates puts insurance carriers at a disadvantage because it creates a smaller pool of insured people.

"That's one of the negatives because we don't have all of the law applies here. So we only get pieces. But we need all of the law for it to be balanced. The analogy is getting health insurance after you are already sick, just like getting car insurance after you've crashed your car. That is not what insurance is for."

Sers Nicholas agrees with Neisis-Mocano's analogy and said that individual and employee mandates are key to making ACA work in the U.S. "Unfortunately, it doesn't apply to the territories."

"In regards to the amendment made to the Public Health Service Act, the CNMI is included and is considered as a state or a territory. When it comes to the ACA, the courts [however] came out saying that the ACA when referring to states does not include the territories."

To fix this, Sers Nicholas said the local legislature must pass a law to require universal coverage for everyone—mainland U.S. citizens, locals, and contract workers.

"Contract workers will still be covered. You cannot discriminate on coverage. Our biggest concern is how will we be able to get all these individuals to buy into the plan even without the mandates. Mandates will have to be passed by the Legislature. That's the only way we can implement and effectuate this," he said.

Another solution Sers Nicholas' office is working on is harmonization, which he said involves developing "our processes and procedures together with the territory of Guam."

"If we are able to include the territory of Guam [in the ACA] we will have a bigger population and we will be able to spread the risk. A bigger risk pool will definitely lower the premiums. One of the things we saw happen was American Samoa had no health insurance carrier before, so what they were allowed to do is partner with Hawaii. Now they get their insurance with Hawaii."

ACA, otherwise known as healthcare reform or Obamacare, is a federal statute that aims to increase the quality and affordability of health insurance, lower the uninsured rate by expanding public and private insurance coverage, and reduce the costs of healthcare for individuals and the government.



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# Lawsuit vs DPL, Finance over COP land lease dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo yesterday dismissed the taxpayers' lawsuit filed by an investor and two taxpayers against the departments of Public Lands and Finance over the lease of a public land where Coral Ocean Point Resort sits.

In granting DPL's and Finance's motion to dismiss the lawsuit, Govendo found to be fatally flawed the complaint filed by Pacific Investment and Development Corp., Vicente O. Litulmar, and Bi Ruth Cabrera.

The judge said that no additional facts or allegations can cure the defects of the lawsuit and so the plaintiffs will not be allowed to amend the case.

Govendo said that PIDC, Litulmar and Cabrera have filed a taxpayer lawsuit in which they have failed to join an indispensable party, Suwaso Corp.

"However, private parties cannot be joined to taxpayer lawsuits, and this case cannot proceed without Suwaso's joinder," he pointed out.

Last September, Govendo dismissed all of the plaintiffs' claims except one. The judge noted that portions of the briefs filed by plaintiffs were unintelligible, poorly written, and "fall far below the level of competency that this court expects from litigants."

PIDC and Litulmar were originally represented by attorney Ramon K. Quichocho. At-

torney Robert Myers later took over as counsel.

The plaintiffs sought for a permanent injunction terminating the lease between DPL and Suwaso, a declaratory judgment stating that the lease is invalid, among others, and a court order for a new request for proposal so that PIDC may bid on the property.

The complaint alleges that DPL entered into a renewed contract for public land with Suwaso Corp. despite Suwaso's history of non-payment of both rent and taxes.

It alleged that DPL failed to present other offers on the property to the Legislature, one of which came from PIDC. It accused DPL of amending both the original and renewed lease without legislative approval. Finance also allegedly reduced Suwaso's tax obligations to the Commonwealth.

According to plaintiffs, all these acts constitute breaches to the fiduciary duties owed the people of NMI descent by DPL and Finance.

Last October, DPL and Finance, through assistant attorney general Peter B. Prestley, moved to dismiss the lawsuit on two grounds.

First, Prestley said, plaintiffs failed to join a necessary and indispensable party: Suwaso.

Prestley said Suwaso cannot be joined to this lawsuit because plaintiffs lack standing to sue Suwaso, and taxpayer lawsuits can-

not be extended to private parties.

Finally, the government lawyer said, since plaintiffs seek injunctive relief that would effectively terminate the land lease, this lawsuit cannot proceed without joining Suwaso.

The court heard the motion last Dec. 3.

In his order granting the motion yesterday, Govendo ruled that the court cannot issue a judgment that would be binding on Suwaso because the latter has not joined the lawsuit.

Without joining Suwaso, Govendo said, the injunctive relief requested by plaintiffs could bind only DPL and Finance.

Thus, the judge said, Suwaso would have to decide whether to continue honoring its right and obligations under the lease agreement or obey an injunction issued by the court to which it is not a party and thus not bound.

"The court cannot issue judgments that would prejudice such inconsistent results," Govendo said.

Suwaso, the judge noted, has a legally protected interest in its lease agreement with DPL that will go unprotected if it is not joined to this case.

Govendo pointed out that Suwaso has already invested substantial amounts of money renovating the property, anticipating that it will recoup its expenditures during the lifetime of the lease.

"Without Suwaso's joinder, it would be unable to defend its

interests," he said.

Govendo said the CNMI Constitution allows a taxpayer to "bring an action against the government or one of its instrumentalities in order to enjoin the expenditure of public funds for other than public purposes or for a breach of fiduciary duty."

"However, this right has not been extended to authorize taxpayer lawsuits against private parties. Suwaso is a private corporation and not a government entity," he added.

In November 2012, PIDC sued DPL and Finance over the alleged

waiver of tax obligations of E-Land Group of Korea.

PIDC and Litulmar then sought an injunction against DPL and Finance, asserting that they will be irreparably harmed by the agencies' alleged pursuit of a sole-source lease with Suwaso Corp., Micronesia Resorts Inc. and E-Land Park Limited.

On Aug. 8, 2013, Govendo

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denied the plaintiffs' request to issue a preliminary injunction to stop DPL and Finance from pursuing the land lease contract.

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## Three DUI checkpoints on Friday

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting three sobriety checkpoints on Friday, Dec. 20, 2013.

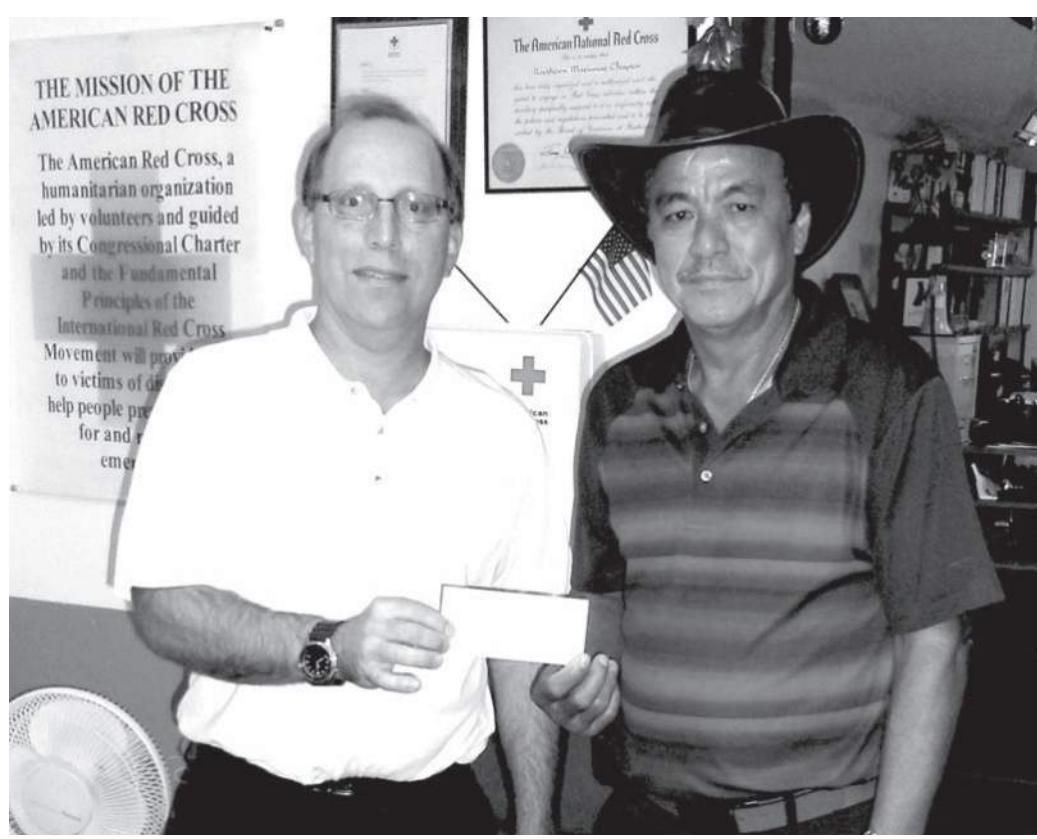
The first checkpoint will be from 5:30pm to 6:45pm along Beach Road Susupe, in front of the Multi-Purpose Center, on

the northbound lane.

The second checkpoint is from 8:30pm to 9:45pm along Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, in front of the St. Michael's Office, on the southbound lane.

The third one is from 11:30pm to 12:45am along Beach Road, Chalan Lau Lau, adjacent to the late Dr. Benusto Kaipat's residence, on the southbound lane.

In addition, traffic officers will be conducting highway criminal interdiction, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdiction, and speed enforcement. (DPS)



**HAIYAN RELIEF DONATION**

American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh receives a donation from Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, on behalf of the C.A.R.E. Club of Tinian, on Monday, Dec. 16, at the NMI Chapter office. The funds will go toward supporting the ongoing relief effort in the Philippines from Typhoon Haiyan.

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# Feasibility study on Rota's West Harbor underway

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is now working with the U.S. Army Corps Engineer to conduct a feasibility study on upgrading the existing harbor of Rota, according to CPA executive director MaryAnn Lizama.

She disclosed that the ports authority has been approved an over \$200,000 technical assistance grant from the Corps for the feasibility study. Lizama said the grant's condition gave CPA no more than a year to avail of this funding assistance.

"We will push [this feasibility study] because we don't want to lose the funds...and we're closely working with the U.S. Army Corps engineers who will be assisting us with the funding for the technical assistance," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

The CPA management and its board had earlier opposed the idea of building a new port on the east side of Rota. The current harbor is on the west side of the island.

A feasibility study, commissioned by the island's municipality and legislative delegation, was recently been completed and is now being reviewed by all parties.

## » '\$19M for existing harbor development a challenge to CPA'

Lizama said that CPA is firm that any funds for harbor development on Rota must first be used on the West Harbor.

"Because West Harbor is the active and regulated area allowed for ports entry, CPA is focusing its efforts on any studies on the West Harbor," she said.

Based on the initial estimates of the agency, repairing and renovating the existing harbor will cost about \$16 million to \$19 million—an amount that Lizama admits would be a challenge to CPA.

She assured, however, that once the feasibility study is completed, the agency will look for federal grants and locally-sourced funds, including untapped CIP monies, to get the project going.

"We will go out to seek funding. But now, that's a high cost project and CPA does not have money [to fulfill the needed improvements]," she said.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that the completed East Harbor study commissioned by both the Rota municipality and its legislative delegation also planned to tap CIP monies for its development.

Rota's elected officials have tossed the idea of develop-

ing the East Harbor due to the current challenges in shipping commodities and other supplies to Rota. The existing West Harbor has limited capability in its channel and cannot accommodate vessels longer than 235 feet. The only way for the port to be able to accommodate bigger vessels is by widening its channel opening. However, the

area identified for the proposed East Harbor is not CPA property but public land.

The U.S. Coast Guard recently approached CPA-Rota where a preliminary inspection was done on the site and had offered assistance to do the desired study with no cost to the ports authority. Based on Section 1156 of the Water Re-

## CUC emergency extended anew

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos extended anew yesterday the state of emergency declaration for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., just days after CUC filed separate lawsuits to collect utility billings totaling \$18.87 million from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Public School System, and the CNMI government.

In his Executive Order 2013-27, the governor also cited the approximately \$18 million debt to CUC by PSS and CHC, along with "millions more" owed by residential utility users.

"There is conflict and potential conflict between CUC and government agencies over money owed and other issues. Such conflict drains resources especially if it results in the parties going to court. Interagency cooperation and oversight is vital to ensure that government

agencies can continue its operations without draining CUC's remaining resources," Inos said.

CUC remains under a state of emergency not only because of these uncollected utility payments, but also because of CUC's continued lack of a board of directors and lack of U.S. workers with specialized skills and training for its operations.

Under an emergency declaration, statutory or regulatory provisions are suspended, and all available resources can be reprogrammed to respond to the emergency.

CUC also bears substantial obligation to deliver highly technical work in time to the satisfaction of the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, pursuant to two sets of consent or "stipulated orders."

The Dec. 16, 2013, emergency declaration for CUC is in effect for another 30 days.

## E-GAMING

From Page 1

"That said, I have been assured by the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives that an amended measure will be forthcoming to remove poker machines from the list of reduced fees for those situated in hotels for the purpose of electronic gaming," Inos said in his letter, transmitted yesterday to the Legislature.

The new law allows electronic gaming machines only in hotels with at least 100 rooms or, if they have fewer than 100 rooms, should be attached to a golf course.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), author of the bill that became P.L. 18-30 and Ways and Means Committee chairman, said yesterday that the signing of another major revenue-generating bill will help the government meet its obligations.

"I am glad that the governor had the opportunity to review the bill and sign off on it. We've been waiting for this for a long time, so that we can deal with our financial obligations. I hope that in this holiday season, we start realizing some profits from this through excise taxes by bringing in the machines. The 25-percent deferment of pension is also hurting a lot of people," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan said he is poised to

introduce a bill amending the electronic gaming law "to remove misinterpretation" of the fee.

He reiterated that the \$2,500 fee per machine is for those that are inside hotels.

Sablan said that based on information he gathered, a machine costs some \$20,000, with different game versions and not only poker.

Under the new law, electronic table games include poker, roulette, baccarat, craps, big wheel, slot machines, baccarat, pai gow, sic bo and any variations or composites.

They must comply with the latest international technical standards set by Global Gaming Laboratories International LLC or SIQ Gaming Laboratories.

Sablan introduced House Bill 18-51 or the Tourism Entertainment and Destination Enhancement Act of 2013 in April. After four House floor amendments, a Senate substitute and a conference committee report, it finally reached the governor's desk two weeks ago.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said the \$2,500 per electronic gaming machine license fee is "too low" but in the spirit of moving the bill forward, he also voted "yes" to it.

Under the bill, 60 percent of the fees collected each year will be used to restore the 25-percent cut in retirees' pension; 15 percent to pay the interest owed to defined benefit

plan members who ended their membership; 15 percent to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for the senatorial district's programs; 5 percent for Rota; and 5 percent for Tinian.

The governor, at the same time, urged the Legislature to "scrutinize proposed fees more carefully in future legislation so the Commonwealth may maximize benefits to fund much needed programs."

Bridge Capital LLC is one of the companies interested in investing in electronic gaming. Its lawyers had been attending House and Senate sessions whenever the bill was scheduled for discussion or action.

Casino gambling is legal only on Tinian and Rota. Saipan voters rejected the proposal twice, and a House casino bill was rejected thrice by the Senate in one form or another.

### Video lottery RFP

In other news, the Inos administration issued yesterday three separate requests for proposals related to video lottery.

The CNMI is seeking a qualified supplier to provide up to 1,000 video lottery terminals that comply with identified specifications and associated gaming software and services to establish and maintain video lottery gaming operations on Saipan for a 20-year period.

The first RFP is for "supply of video lottery terminals and

associated services," while the second RFP is for "video lottery gaming site and associated services."

The third RFP is for "supply of video lottery central control system and associated services."

This comes some two months after the governor signed into law the video lottery bill that Rep. Antonio Agulto (Ind-Saipan) introduced.

Under Public Law 18-20, video lottery terminals are strictly limited to golf resorts, hotels that have at least 100 rooms, or at any airport departure area that is accessible to departing passengers only.

Inos earlier asked lawmakers to consider video lottery legislation that could be used for debt service for a multimillion pension obligation bond. That was the same day the governor signed the authorization bill for the POB.

Video lottery is run by the government with significant controls on all aspects of gaming activity to accomplish specific government objectives such as economic development, integrity in gaming and tourism development, the administration said.

Besides the video lottery law and the electronic gaming law, the governor also recently signed a tax amnesty measure that will be in effect up to Jan. 2, 2014, seen to also generate additional revenue for the government.

sources Act of 1986, CPA can minimize the matching funds for the research project because CPA is eligible to waive up to

\$200,000. It is estimated that the feasibility for the West Harbor may cost \$400,000, which requires a 50-50 match.

## 3 MEN

From Page 1

The owner said that after receiving the call, she and her husband proceeded to Happy Market where police were already conducting an investigation.

Fang said she learned that three suspects came and parked their vehicle in the back of the building.

After a few minutes, the suspects shut down the electric power to the building. When the security guard checked the building's back area where the power meter was located, the suspects assaulted him, causing

him to lose consciousness in the grassy area.

The suspects then broke the main entrance's glass door, took money from the cash register, and grabbed several cartons of cigarettes under the cashier's table.

Fang said the surveillance camera stopped because the robbers shut down the power at 3:20am. She said it was the guard who called police after he regained consciousness.

Fang and her husband bought the store from a Korean businessman in February 2011. She said it was the first time the store was robbed since their takeover.

Police are now conducting follow-up investigation.

## PROPERTY

From Page 1

the CNMI's political leaders are "profoundly troubled by the expansive efforts of the Department of Defense to acquire additional property and control over our islands and the waters adjacent thereto for military [or defense] purposes."

He said these increased DoD efforts to control CNMI property is in conflict and contrary to the Covenant.

"The MITT final environmental impact statement evaluating training and testing within the Mariana Islands Range Complex must consider the military's proposal to control more CNMI property in relation to the provisions in Section 802 of the CNMI Covenant," the governor said.

Under Section 802, the U.S. affirmed that it has no need for or intention to acquire any greater interest in property belonging to the CNMI.

The draft EIS indicates the Navy intends to further intensify its activities around the islands, as part of an increased deployment into the Western Pacific that began in the last decade.

Under its preferred alternative, the Navy would annually run approximately 2,500 hours of hull-mounted, mid-frequency sonar and many more thousands of hours of active acoustics.

Each year, it would detonate about 984 in-water explosives with a net explosive charge of 5 lbs or greater.

This is in addition to thousands of smaller explosives and other types of ordnance.

"Collectively, these activities are associated with a variety of environmental impacts on marine mammals and other marine biota, including disruptions in foraging and other vital behaviors, hearing loss, physical injury such as lung damage, and mortality," the governor said in his letter addressed to Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific.

He said the draft EIS itself

estimates that Navy activities would subject marine mammals to some 133,510 instances of temporary hearing loss and 285 cases of permanent hearing loss or injury.

The governor recommends the establishment of marine mammal mitigation areas within the CNMI, and additional effort at baseline data acquisition.

Among his specific recommendations is the exclusion of sonar and explosives training and testing from the vicinity of the islands of the CNMI.

The governor also recommends further study, such as the conduct of small-vessel surveys on the islands north of Tinian, and a towed passive acoustic survey.

"The CNMI looks forward to working with the Navy on implementing these provisions and furthering our mutual interests in the protection of marine species," Inos added.

Prior to submitting his comments, the governor and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider urged agencies to submit their individual comments on the draft EIS.

One of the responding local agencies was the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, which said that a proposed increase in the level of U.S. military bombings on Farallon de Medinilla and amphibious vehicle landing exercises on Tinian beaches, among other things, pose "significant impacts" on local resources but many of these effects were absent in the draft EIS.

For example, bombs up to 200 lbs are and will be allowed to be dropped on FDM and such explosives would significantly disrupt soil and reefs.

But the draft EIS "failed to provide this as a potential impact of increased bombing of FDM," DLNR officials and biologists said.

FDM is the only area in the CNMI that the U.S. military uses for live fire training since 1976.

An entirely separate proposal seeks to use Tinian and Pagan, also for live-fire training.

# Manta Band struggles to close funding gap for Asian tour

## »Over a hundred musicians in a free holiday concert tonight

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The island's most popular musical group, Manta Ray Band, is struggling to close its funding gap for their upcoming competition tour in Asia. As of Monday, the band is still short of \$100,000 for their Asian tour slated for March in Japan and South Korea.

Musical director and conductor William DeWitt disclosed that 42 highly qualified students have been working diligently for the tour and will each invest \$1,000 of their own money on top of the fundraising activities they are currently involved with as a group.

### Reimbursement to ratepayers diverted to some CUC projects'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Faced with criticisms about a potential increase in power rates next month and its failure to reimburse customers for a prior rate hike the purpose of which didn't pan out, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. stated that they used the money they raised to fund CUC's other needs.

Under Public Law 17-62, which was enacted in December 2011, CUC was authorized to enter a \$10 million loan from outside sources in order to satisfy the requirements of federal stipulated orders.

CPUC approved this additional funding for CUC's priority projects and CUC customers were assessed a higher rate to pay for this loan.

It will be recalled that for this supposed loan, CPUC ordered a \$3.8 million base rate increase in June 2011.

The \$10 million loan, however, didn't work out but no reimbursements were made to ratepayers despite the order of the Legislature pursuant to a House resolution approved on August 2012 mandating CUC to reimburse customers for all sums collected or billed related to the loan.

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### MHS PTSA meeting on Thursday

All Marianas High School parents, guardians, and students are urged to attend the MHS PTA meeting this Thursday Dec. 19, at 6pm in the MHS cafeteria. We will get an update on MHS events and prioritize the list of MHS campus improvements. After the meeting, walk over to get a seat at the Thespian's performance of *A Christmas Carol* in the Dolphin Theatre at 7pm.

#### 1,649 unemployed registrants yet to complete résumé

The CNMI Department of Labor will be sending electronic notices to email addresses on record to all 1,649 individuals identified in the system as not having a complete résumé. A complete résumé online will allow you to electronically view, apply for job openings, and also allow employers to view your résumé and contact you. All individuals who receive such notices are encouraged to contact the CNMI Department of Labor, Division of Employment Services at 664-3190 or 322-0996 or go online at [www.marianaslabor.net](http://www.marianaslabor.net) to access your account and complete the required information. (DOL)

DeWitt said the band was recently informed that the Public School System will not be contributing to the group's funding needs due to budget constraints.

The Manta Band—to be able to join the tour—must pay all their travel bills before the end of January 2014.

DeWitt said he is currently awaiting a response from the Legislature and Gov. Eloy S. Inos about possible funding support from the government. DeWitt, meantime, acknowledged the help provided by the Arts Council, which recently sponsored the band to perform at the Thursday Street Market

and caroling at various agencies this week. He specifically recognized Arts Council director Angel Hocog.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that the Manta Band itinerary in Japan and Korea includes performances at Tokyo Disneyland, an exchange concert with a premier Japanese high school band, and an adjudicated festival concert featuring other award-winning Japanese ensembles. The group is also slated to do a charity event at the Seoul Children's Hospital, as well as a public concert in Korea. Also on its list is an opportunity to represent the CNMI Public School System next spring at a premier Asian music festival.

DeWitt earlier said the group

aims to raise \$175,000 for the tour. The group paid last month the first installment of \$40,000, which will help with arrangements for hotels, ground transport, festival fees, instrument rentals, and logistics. A security deposit donated by the Board of Education was also made in September to secure the band's slot.

#### Free holiday concerts

To boost the holiday spirit on island, the Manta Band will once again offer free holiday concerts starting tonight, Dec. 17.

The group is slated to perform at the Saipan Community School campus starting at 6pm tonight. This event is jointly presented by the Saipan Pacific Winds community concert band and the

award-winning Saipan Southern High School Advanced Band 2 ensemble. It is hosted and sponsored by the Saipan Community School and their principal, Bobby Winkfield.

"In addition to celebrating the wonderful Christmas music both bands will share, several small instrumental ensembles will entertain the audience as well. The Pacific Winds portion of the concert will commemorate their 20th anniversary as a band. Although I am the band's founder, my co-conductor, Ms. Nierras, has been with us for the past 10 years and will join me at the podium for the evening's repertoire," said DeWitt.

The cash and prize drawings for the Manta Band fundraiser will also be done that evening. The band initiated the raffle to

raise funds for their tour in Japan and Korea. Prizes include a \$3,000 cash grand prize, a \$1,500 baby grand, and \$1,000 cash prize as well more than 60 gifts and gift certificates.

Tomorrow, Dec. 18, the group is scheduled to perform at the Saipan Southern High School cafeteria at 6pm.

"In conjunction with the SSHS' PTSA meeting, the Manta Band is pleased to present its annual holiday concert featuring the Beginning Band (50 members), Intermediate Band (25 members), Advanced Band 1 (40 members), 8 small ensemble performances by Advanced Band 2 members, and a special appearance by famed Korean pianist Ju Eun Lee from Chang Won University in South Korea," DeWitt said.

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# Bank of Guam warns of potential phishing scam

## » Extra vigilance urged during holiday season

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam is urging island residents to exercise additional vigilance this holiday season with the growth of potential phishing scams.

## Palacios gets 14 mos. for beating up a man, his pregnant girlfriend

Bradley Delos Reyes Palacios was slapped with a 14-month jail term without the possibility of parole for beating up a man and his then-pregnant girlfriend in separate incidents.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced the 21-year-old Palacios last week to a year in prison, all suspended except for 60 days, for assault and battery over the beating of a man.

Govendo sentenced Palacios to a year in prison to be served without the possibility of parole, for assault and battery over the beating of his girlfriend.

The judge said the sentences shall run consecutively. This means the total prison term is 14 months. He was given credit for 200 days of time served in the two cases.

Upon his release, Palacios will be placed on supervised probation. He was ordered to pay a \$300 fine, \$300 probation fee, and \$25 court costs. He was also required to perform 200 hours of community service and to participate in anger management counseling. He is barred from pos-

“Phishing” is an attempt to steal your personal information such as usernames, passwords, and account details by an unknown party pretending to be a trustworthy entity.

Email messages purporting to be from Bank of Guam with the subject matter “Important Notice for IFITonline® Com-

mercial Users” have been sent to numerous island residents, including both Bank of Guam customers and non-customers. Bank of Guam has identified this to be a phishing scam.

The following online security best practices are being reminded by Bank of Guam:

■ Bank of Guam will never

ask you to validate your personal information outside of our secure channels (i.e., in the branch, over the phone, upon secure login to online banking). You should be suspicious of any email or online site that requests you to do so.

■ When using IFITonline, you must enter through the Bank’s official website homepage:

<https://www.bankofguam.com>. All other links that direct you to an unfamiliar page should be treated as suspicious.

■ Once you have logged into Bank of Guam’s online banking, the URL will change to <https://online.ifitbanking.com>. Anything other than this should be treated as suspicious and you

should not proceed.

More information can be found on the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. website at [www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/fighttheft](http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/fighttheft).

For additional information, contact Bank of Guam Customer Service at 472-5300 or [customerservice@bankofguam.com](mailto:customerservice@bankofguam.com). (BOG)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Roy Rios, community planner, COTA; Rose Woodford, project manager, VTECH; Bob Herbert, Senior COTA Fellow and trainer/ISO 14001 lead auditor, VTECH; Thomas J. Camacho, special assistant for public transportation, COTA; Harry E. Gregori Jr., trainer/ISO 14001 lead auditor, VTECH; Christopher Sablan, grants management coordinator, COTA; and Mary Dickinson, administrative officer, COTA.

## COTA team undergoes training on ‘green’ practices

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority’s Environmental Sustainability Management System Core Team recently returned from Roanoke, Virginia, after completing their second of four training sessions. The team underwent a series of training from VirginiaTech under contract with the Federal Transit Administration.

An environmental management system is a set of management process and procedures that allows an organization to analyze, control, and reduce the environmental impact of its activities, products, services, and operation with greater efficiency and control. As a guidance, the training model and materials use the ISO 14001 version.

COTA is one of the transit agencies selected among nine other state transit agencies.

According to Thomas J. Camacho, special assistant for public transportation, the CNMI team was composed of five

core members. The team presented its progress on its first workshop assignment, then its work on Control of Documents. Other team members presented on their work on Environmental Policy, Environmental Aspects/Significance Aspects, Legal & Other and Resource, Roles, Responsibility & Authority.

Teams listened to a case study by former ESMS teams, worked on new topics such Documentation, went into two team breakout sessions, heard sustainability initiatives presentation by former ESMS teams, worked on Objectives, Targets and Programs, and heard a presentation from a former ESMS team on Emergency Preparedness & Response Case Study. The team also went through training on Emergency Preparedness & Response.

Between December 2013 through February 2014, the teams must meet once a week to develop and complete their homework assignments, attend

two conference calls with VirginiaTech instructors and one with FTA officials, submit quarterly progress reports and submit its assignments online prior to traveling back to Virginia to report on its workshop 2 progress and attend Workshop 3 scheduled in February 2014. This whole process is repeated up until the fourth and final workshop in June 2014.

FTA/VirginiaTech personnel will travel to the CNMI in the fall of 2014 and early 2015 to conduct the first GAP Audit to review COTA’s fence line facilities and operations, to be conducted by an ISO 14001 certified lead auditor. The second trip will be the second (final) GAP Audit to review documents onsite with the ISO 14001 certified lead auditor.

The environmental benefits of COTA’s participation with ESMS is aimed at reducing the number, type, and severity of compliance incidents; improved relationships with state

and federal regulators; pollution and waste quantify reductions; recovered resources; reduction of air emissions; and reduction of amount of oil in waste water.

“This is timely since now COTA operates from its new office, operates and maintains vehicles for the Call-a-Ride Saipan service and in 2014, COTA will launch the first-ever Saipan Fixed-Flex Route system to eventually expand service to Rota and Tinian,” said Camacho. “Currently, COTA is in the process of bidding out the A&E for its new administration building and for the conversion of an existing warehouse into Bus/Vehicle Maintenance, and the Repair & Storage Facility.”

The next step will be to bid out the construction of the facilities to be built at its Lower Base property. Ultimately, the ESMS will include the planning and operation of oceangoing vessel or ferry for interisland travel within the CNMI. (Office of the Governor)

## Case vs man accused of fondling tourist is dismissed

The Superior Court bench trial of a marine sports employee accused of fondling a female tourist while they were on a jetski failed to go through yesterday after the Office of the Attorney General moved to dismiss the charges.

Assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda asked the court to drop the case as the government was not able to bring back the alleged victim, a Chinese national, to Saipan for the trial.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho granted Cepeda’s motion to dismiss without

prejudice the case against Mohammed Sohel, a 42-year-old Bangladeshi national.

Dismissed without prejudice means the prosecution is allowed to refile a new case on the same claim in the future.

Cepeda asked the court to allow the government to use medical records to show injury but Camacho denied this, saying the rules do not allow medical records in this fashion as the Constitution still requires the victim to be present to answer questions.

The case was originally set for

jury trial, but the OAG dropped the sexual assault charge against Sohel. That left assault and battery and disturbing the peace as the remaining charges—all misdemeanor offenses.

Police detective Rhonda John stated in her report that a police officer responded to call at a hotel on April 16, 2013, about an assault and battery incident.

John said the alleged victim told police that she was riding a jetski with Sohel sitting behind her when he began fondling her.

The tourist accelerated the jetski then stopped it, causing Sohel to fall into the water. When he got back on the jetski, he allegedly fondled her again, prompting the tourist to throw herself off the jetski.

The alleged victim told Sohel to take her back to shore, where she informed her husband about the incident.

A police officer responded and arrested the suspect.

Sohel pleaded not guilty. Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer served as his lawyer. (Ferdie de la Torre)

## Concepcion is 2013 Paul Harris Fellow

First Hawaiian Bank’s Vicki Concepcion is the Rotary Club of Saipan’s Paul Harris Fellow for 2013 after her name was picked among Rotary members who donated upwards of \$1,000 to the organization in the course of the year.

Paul Harris Foundation committee director Peter Schilling announced Concepcion’s selection during the Rotary Club of Saipan’s Christmas Party held Dec. 6 at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

The foundation is named after Rotary Club International founder Paul Harris and it has raised over \$1 billion for the eradication of polio around the world.

“The foundation, when it focuses on something, it really gets serious and that’s what it’s done with regards to polio. We’re down to the last three countries around the globe where they have polio in an endemic rate and they are Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nigeria. World Health Organization, the Rotary, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation are de-

termined to get into those three countries and get this job done,” said Schilling.

The campaign also involves eradicating other diseases, Schilling said.

“It’s not only about eradicating polio. The project is called Polio Plus and the plus part of that is wherever we go to vaccinate for polio we also look at other diseases that are endemic in that location,” he said.

For instance, he said, India is now polio-free country thanks to Polio Plus, adding that Rotarians went to villages only accessible by oxcart to deliver vaccines to the community.

Aside from naming the Paul Harris fellow for 2013, the local Rotary Club also announced its 2013 slate of officers for 2014. They are: Richard Cody, incoming president; Curtis Dance; president-elect, Reina Camacho, secretary-elect, Glenn Perez, treasurer-elect, Ivan Ilimov, youth service; Marcia Ayuyu and Larry Phillip, community relations; and Tom Thornburgh, vocational services. (Mark Rabago)

# Battalion FRG dedicates Christmas tree to deployed soldiers

**BARRIGADA, Guam**—It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at the Guam Army National Guard's Family Readiness Center Battalion Headquarters in Barrigada as the Battalion Christmas tree is being decked with handmade decorations lovingly made by the families and loved ones of Guam's deployed service members.

"This holiday tree is meant to bring cheer to the families of our service members who

are eagerly awaiting the arrival of their loved ones. This is one way for them to share their thoughts of goodwill with the community and express their pride for their service members especially during this holiday season," said Sharleen Perez, Family Readiness Support assistant.

The 5-foot-tall tree, which is prominently displayed at the lobby of Bldg. 200 at the Battalion Headquarters, is specifically

dedicated to Guam's deployed soldiers. Early this month, the FRG issued an invitation to the families to hang their ornaments and Perez said the reception had been satisfactory.

"Since Dec. 13, families of service members have either been sending their personalized decorations or have personally hung their respective ornaments, which are made from different materials. What you will see are not just the traditional glass ball

decorations but there also other decors some of which are small picture frames that are made out of Popsicle sticks, ribbons, and other materials. The faces of our soldiers are highlighted on each ornament, quite a sizeable number of which are made by the children of our service members," Perez said.

"It's a heartwarming feeling when you see some of the service member's spouses and relatives and, of course, the children who personally hang their dad's, uncle's or auntie's décor. You can see the happiness in their faces, enjoying the experience of actually helping decorate this big tree specially dedicated to their loved ones," said Glenda San-

tos, Family Readiness Council chairperson.

Families have until Dec. 20 to submit their decorations. Only one ornament per soldier is allowed so as to accommodate every service member's contribution. The décor could be of

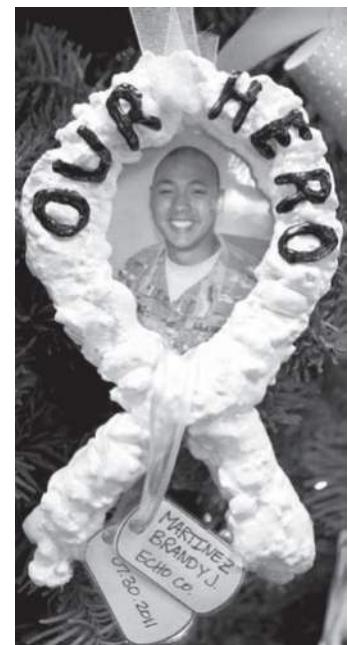
any shape but the size of which should not exceed 5" x 5" or the size of a regular Christmas ornament. Submit the décor to the Battalion Headquarters, Bldg. 200, Room 233, until the close of business on Dec. 20.

For more information, contact Sharleen Perez at 735-4673 or visit the Guam Battalion Infantry FRG on Facebook to get a glimpse of the Battalion Christmas tree and the various ornaments from our soldiers' families. (FRG)



This 5-foot-tall tree, which is prominently displayed at the lobby of the Guam Army National Guard's Family Readiness Center Battalion Headquarters in Barrigada, is specifically dedicated to Guam's deployed soldiers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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## Men's Health Magazine covers Hell of the Marianas

This month's Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle race will be featured by Korea's *Men's Health Magazine*, bringing added attention to the Northern Mariana Islands in one of its key source markets.

*Men's Health Magazine* has been the best selling men's magazine in 2013, targeting men age 30 and older and circulating to over 100,000 readers. Most subscribers are interested in swimming, weight

training, various other sports, and imported cars. Nine representatives of the monthly magazine were on Saipan from Dec. 5-8, 2013, and were assisted during their visit by Marianas Visitors Authority staff. The magazine will devote six pages to the Saipan visit in an upcoming issue.

"Coverage provided by *Men's Health Magazine* will help promote Hell of the Marianas as one of many sports competi-

tions in the Northern Marianas available to our visitors every year," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "It's a challenging race on a beautiful course, and we would be thrilled to see more Korean competitors next year."

Japanese pro Kazuhiro Yamamoto was the first male finisher in 2:56:38 in the Open Division. Australian pro Jodie Willet led the women's Open pack in 3:03:44. (MVA)

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2014 at 10:30 A.M. or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz  
Clerk of Court  
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor children by Jocelyn Y. Joyce, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

This is to notify the public that Mr. Dennis Pacheco is no longer affiliated with PHILPAN International dba Marianas Ice and Water. Any transaction on behalf of the company will not be accepted.

## PUBLIC NOTICE



## PDM Promoters collects 1,200 lbs of trash

Volunteers from PDM Promoters Inc. were at it again on Saturday, picking up trash at the Paseo de Marianas and its surrounding environs.

Despite their best efforts, however, the amount of trash they pick up has increased instead of decreasing, according to spokesperson Sonia Awa.

Just last Saturday, the 34 PDM Promoters volunteers—10 Kinpachi Restaurant staff and 34 members of

the Saipan Awaodori Team—picked up 1,200 lbs of trash from 9am to 10:30am.

The last couple of months, the volunteers gathered 980 lbs (October) and 1,040 lbs (November) of trash at the Paseo de Marianas.

Awa said the kind of trash they collected last Dec. 14 ranged from canned and bottled beer underneath plants and bushes, Styrofoam plates, plastic spoons, baby diapers, and

the ever-present cigarette butts.

She said the amount of trash they collected last weekend probably was caused by the holidays, which has increased the number of people who visit the Paseo de Marianas.

The Division of Environmental Quality helped PDM Promoters in disposing of the trash they collected without fee at the transfer station.

PDM Promoters is community group known for

its cultural dance group, the Saipan Awaodori Team, and for keeping the Paseo de Marianas spick and span throughout the year.

The group's monthly cleanups collect up to 1,000 lbs of trash during these drives. PDM Promoters' monthly cleanup of the Garapan landmark is supported by its major sponsors, TSL Foundation, DFS Galleria Saipan, and Docomo Pacific. (Mark Rabago)



Volunteers from the Saipan Awaodori Team and Kinpachi Restaurant pose for a group photo with the 1,200 lbs of trash they collected during PDM Promoters' monthly cleanup last Saturday at the Paseo de Marianas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Saipan Awaodori Team members pick up cigarette butts along the side of Beach Road.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Saipan Awaodori Team member Kelly Acebo pushes a cart full of trash.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Man allegedly tries to leave NMI despite his pending criminal case

A 52-year-old man who has a pending criminal case and said to be jobless and displaying signs of depression was arrested at the Saipan International Airport on Wednesday last week for allegedly trying to leave the CNMI.

CNMI court marshals picked up Wu Zhao Chuan, a Chinese national, at the airport after airport authorities alerted them to Chuan's flight plan.

At a hearing on Wednesday afternoon, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a \$25,000 cash bail for Chuan's temporary release.

According to court records, Chuan has been charged with criminal mischief and disturbing the peace, arising from an incident on June 3, 2013, at a barracks in San Antonio. A neighbor asked for police's help after Chuan appeared to go

crazy and threatened him once with a metal pipe. Chuan also allegedly used the metal pipe to hit the walls in the barracks, punching big holes into the wooden walls. The defendant moved to the barracks last year and had been unemployed since then. The neighbor said that Chuan could often be seen talking to himself.

Following the neighbor's complaint, police arrested

Chuan on June 3, 2013. After his release on bail, he failed to appear at his hearing on June 18, 2013, prompting the court to issue a bench warrant for his arrest.

When Chuan failed to appear for his arraignment on July 1, 2013, the court activated the June 18 bench warrant.

It was not clear whether the defendant has a passport. (Ferdie de la Torre)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

December 17, 2005

### Rota election protest dismissed

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo yesterday dismissed the election protest filed by Vicente Manglona Atalig against his closest rival, Rota Mayor-elect Joseph Songao Inos. The law is very clear here and in other jurisdictions. You can twist it, you can turn, you can put it upside down. But seven days is seven days said Govendo in granting Inos motion to dismiss Atalig's lawsuit. Atalig's election challenge was not filed within the seven-day rule as required by the statute, said the judge as he explained that the motion is granted on jurisdictional grounds only.

### MVA targets Australia market

The Marianas Visitors Authority plans to expand its marketing program beginning 2006 to Australia, believing that it's another key market for the CNMI. MVA board chairman David M. Sablan said the CNMI could be a favorite alternate destination for Australians in view of the Bali bombings. Australians used to go to Bali but the bombings make them think twice about going back. So this has prompted us to take a look at Australia as a market, he said. In a visit to the CNMI about two years ago, Australian Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia Brendan Doran said that sprucing up tourism traffic between Australia and the CNMI is an area worth looking into, but noted that the biggest drawback is the absence of direct flights.

December 17, 2006

### DPH exceeds target in Flu Vaccine Drive

Approximately 2,578 flu shots were given out yesterday morning during the Department of Public Health's Flu Vaccine Drive held at the Garapan Elementary School. DPH Secretary Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez said the turnout exceeded their initial target of at least 1,500. As early as 7am, people started lining up at the largest elementary school in the CNMI. DPH public information officer Roxanne Diaz told Saipan Tribune that she was amazed to see several groups of people already queuing for an early flu vaccine shot, even before they opened the doors. Mirasol Dayao, who availed of the flu shots with her entire family, said that, despite the large number, the process didn't take that long as there were many people administering the flu shots.

### 'Jobless workers must go home'

Displaced garment workers or any nonresident workers who are jobless have to leave the CNMI whether they like it or not, said local and federal authorities. "There is nothing in the Nonresident Workers Act that says you have the right to stay here for the rest of your life," said federal ombudsman Jim Benedetto in a recent interview. He said that, with the closure of businesses, particularly garment factories, the chances of displaced workers getting other jobs are becoming slimmer. "There are many workers but fewer jobs," he said. Benedetto's office extends assistance to nonresident workers who have problems with their employment.

December 17, 2007

### Christmas in the Marianas draws a thousand

About a thousand participants and spectators brought holiday cheer and spirit to the American Memorial Park last Saturday during the 6th Annual Christmas in the Marianas. Christmas in the Marianas, which used to be held regularly at the Chamolinian Cultural Village, was moved to AMP this year because of the growing number of participants every year, according to Pacific Development, Inc.'s Gordon Mariano. "Each year, the number just keeps on growing, so we have to accommodate everybody. Every year, we want to give something new [to the audience]," he said.

### 2 men rob 2 tourists at Suicide Cliff

Two men robbed two tourists at Suicide Cliff in Marpi Friday at noon. The suspects took the victims' two wallets containing a total of \$1,000 cash and other items. The robbers fled on board a Toyota car without a license plate. As of press time yesterday, no one has been arrested yet. *Saipan Tribune* learned that the two Korean lovers, both 26 years old, parked their car on top of Suicide Cliff at 12:30pm. While the tourists were taking pictures a Toyota car later parked behind their vehicle.

# CBP provides int'l travel tips for the holiday season

**HAGATNA, Guam**—With the holiday season in full swing, U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Guam and the CNMI is providing international travelers with the following helpful tips to ease travel angst when departing from or returning to the U.S.

“Understanding the CBP process helps travelers better prepare for their arrival to the U.S.,” said Brian J. Humphrey, CBP’s director of Field Operations in San Francisco. “Long international flights and arrival procedures can be extremely stressful. Knowing what to expect alleviates some of the anxiety, and allows us to experience

legitimate passengers more quickly and efficiently.”

Before bringing those gifts into the country, it’s important to know what is prohibited or restricted. Having a firm understanding of what you may or may not bring with you, what is subject to duty, and how to properly declare items will make the process much easier. CBP’s “Know Before You Go” Web page ([http://cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id\\_visa/kbyg/](http://cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/kbyg/)) contains a wealth of useful information for returning international travelers.

## DECLARING YOUR

**GOODS:** Truthfully declare everything you are bringing from abroad on your “CBP Declaration” form (6059b), including duty-free items.

## FOOD AND PLANTS:

There are numerous agricultural restrictions on fruits, meats, and plants.

Before bringing these items back, check the CBP website on bringing agricultural products into the U.S. ([http://cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/clearing/agri\\_prod\\_inus.xml](http://cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/clearing/agri_prod_inus.xml)). If you decide to take your chances and bring it with you, be certain to declare it, and

be willing to surrender it if it turns out to be prohibited.

**CURRENCY:** There are no restrictions on the amount of money that can be carried into or out of the U.S. The only requirement is that if the amount exceeds \$10,000, the currency must be reported on a “Report of International Transportation of Currency or Monetary Instruments” form (FinCEN 105). The completed form must be turned in to a CBP officer prior to departing the U.S. if carrying the currency out, or upon return if carrying the currency in. Failure to report currency can result in prosecution or severe penalties including forfeiture.

## TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:

Have all passports, completed CBP Declaration forms, and any other associated travel documents ready when you approach the Passport Control booths. This will speed the process and help you get on your way more quickly.

**TRAVEL TIME:** Plan ahead and allow sufficient time in travel plans for wait times and delays. During the busy holiday season, increased passenger counts and additional luggage can lead to longer processing lines.

## CBP INSPECTION PROCESS:

Understand that CBP officers have the authority to conduct enforcement examinations on travelers and their belongings when entering the U.S. Thorough examinations of luggage, personal belongings, and personal searches are meant to enforce U.S. laws as well as protect the nation.

For more information on international travel, and clearing CBP upon arrival, visit the CBP.GOV/Travel website (<http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/>).

CBP is the unified border agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the management, control, and protection of the nation’s borders at and between the official ports of entry. (CBP)

## Other states’ Guardsmen contribute to TF Guam’s success

By SGT EDDIE SIGUENZA  
GUAM ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

**CAMP PHOENIX, Afghanistan**—This was an opportunity for East to meet West in the far western Pacific Ocean for a mission deep in the Middle East.

Spc. Thomas Clark of Clio, Mich., accepted it. So did Capt. Dustin Wiggins, who dusted off the terrain at his Holladay, Utah, home to be with the Guam Army National Guard’s 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment this Operation Enduring Freedom mission. The pair is part of nearly two dozen National Guardsmen representing 10 states that linked up with Guam, a unit that features a rainbow of nationalities even without the U.S. mainlanders.

Even though Guam historically united 500-plus organic soldiers for this mission—becoming one of the largest forces currently in Afghanistan—it still needed to fill important positions, said Lt. Col. Michael Tougher, Task Force Guam commander. Guam leaders pursued these positions through tour of duty, or TOD, a military deployment process, and relied on in-theatre extensions, or ITEs, to complete what was needed.

Close to 10 soldiers from the Alabama Army National Guard’s 167th Infantry Regiment—the unit Guam succeeded in April—serve as ITEs. They chose to stay in Afghanistan to serve with Guam.

“All of them serve an important role in our battalion. We’re thankful they chose to be a part of the Guam Army National Guard,” Tougher said. “Some have been with us since our pre-deployment, others came on once we hit boots on ground. They’re contributing to our mission’s success.”

Wiggins, the assistant intelligence officer, was the final TOD to join Guam. He was encouraged by Capt. Charles Esteves, intelligence officer, who met Wiggins at last year’s Military Intelligence captain’s career course.

“After prayerful consideration and after my wife signed off on the idea, I accepted his in-



SGT. EDDIE SIGUENZA

1st Lt. Matthew Rogers, platoon leader for Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard and Connecticut resident, stands before his unit at Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan.

vitation,” said Wiggins. “I will be forever grateful for the privilege it has been to serve with Task Force Guam. I wish I had the chance to get to know each soldier individually. Guam and the Chamorro people will always have a special place in my heart.”

The Guam battalion features soldiers with various nationalities such as Micronesians, Palauans, Filipinos, Samoans, and Asians. This is a resemblance of Guam’s multi-cultured life.

Clark joins Spc. Eldad Neuemeier of the Rhode Island National Guard as medic/health care specialists via TOD. Clark, of Guam’s second platoon, Headquarters-Headquarters Company, is also a combat driver who provides guardian angel security while on mission.

“I wanted to deploy with Guam for the experience of meeting new people and learning a new culture,” said Clark of the Michigan Army National Guard. “The most important thing I have learned with Task Force Guam is they get the job done and well, and have a good time on top of that.”

Four officers—1st Lt. Joshua Carson and 1st Lt. Daniel J. Delgado of the Oregon Army National Guard, 1st Lt. Christopher P. Bennett (New York Army National Guard), and 1st

Lt. Matthew Rogers (Connecticut Army National Guard)—serve as platoon leaders. First Lt. Daniel Rudes (Alabama Army National Guard) is Bravo Company’s executive officer, while Alabama native 1st Lt. Justin Blair is Echo Company’s executive officer.

“Getting to work with the soldiers of the Guam Army National Guard. I know that may sound a bit canned, but I would definitely say that is the highlight for me,” said Carson of Independence, Oregon. “These soldiers are awesome and I find it a privilege to serve as their leader. They are some of the most generous people I have met, and of course the Guam food. There is always some Spam and rice cooking somewhere.”

Three from the Hawaii Army National Guard fill Guam’s void. Capt. Ronaldo Pascua of the Michigan Army National Guard is Task Force Guam’s chaplain; Sgt. Eric Zabedny is a forward observer/team leader for Charlie Company; and Staff Sgt. Jonathan Brookfield serves a vital role as electronic warfare sergeant.

It can be tough to integrate into a unit that is so close such as Task Force Guam. Not so in this case, Brookfield, of Kaimuki, Honolulu, explained. “I was

welcomed to the Guam family” immediately.

“Afghanistan is a harsh environment with many challenges. I had the honor of working with all seven Guam companies. The motivation, professionalism, and the talent of Task Force Guam soldiers I worked with is among the best in the National Guard.”

Brookfield and Pascua are members of Hawaii’s 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Guam falls under the 29th’s chain of command.

“There are a lot of similarities in culture and courtesies as Hawaii,” Pascua, of Ewa Beach, Hawaii, said. “The most positive thing I’ve gotten serving with Guam is the friendships I made within unit. It has been an honor to be part of a unit

and family that has left a great, positive impression on all other units worked with.”

Staff Sgt. Brian Kirst, the battalion’s paralegal noncommissioned officer in charge, hails from Markesan, Wisc., and is a member of the Wisconsin Army National Guard. He credits his time serving with Guam as one of the best he’s ever had.

“I saw the mission on Tour of Duty. I thought why not,” Kirst said. “I sent my application packet in. Then I got an email from [Guam National Guard personnel] Chief Warrant Officer Bernard Aguon. In his signature block I saw Guam National Guard. My eyes may have gotten slightly larger for a few weeks!”

Added Kirst, “The biggest thing I learned about Guam

and its people are family and respect. I’m all about it. I love the culture; I love the laidback/family culture of Guam.”

Everyone has gotten used to Guam’s main cuisine: barbecue, Spam, finadene and Tabasco. Some are still getting used to Guam’s language, Chamorro, which is still tough to get even after months saddling with Guam’s bravest warriors.

“The only thing I know for sure how to say in Chamorro is ‘Malagu momu,’ ” Wiggins concluded.

That means “Do you want to fight.”

When asked what’s the response to that, Wiggins replied, “Aren’t you supposed to say ‘Chagi fan?’ ”

That means “Try it.”

## Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM

**ASAN, Guam**—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Dec. 17, from 8am to 5:30pm, and on Dec. 18, from 10am to 5:30pm.

The military will also conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Dec. 17, from 10:30am to 11:55pm; Dec. 18 and 19, from 7am to 11:55pm; and Dec. 20, from 9:30am to 3:30pm

The general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is active south of latitude 12° 40’N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 south of latitude 12° 40’N. W-517 north of 12° 40’N is open for normal public use/transit. W-517 is an irregular

shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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## Still waiting for a vote

By MIKE THOMPSON

The Sacramento Bee

Democratic U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson represents California's 5th Congressional District. He wrote this for The Sacramento Bee.



**O**n Dec. 14, 2012, I was duck hunting in California when my phone buzzed with a breaking news alert. There had been a shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. As the hours unfolded, more details surfaced. Twenty children—all of them 6 or 7 years old—and six adults had been gunned down in a senseless act of violence.

In the days and weeks that followed the shooting, we pledged to never forget. We said this time would be different. We said that something must be done.

It has now been a year. In that year more than 10,000 people have been killed by someone using a gun. And in the U.S. House of Representatives, the majority party hasn't allowed a single vote to prevent further acts of gun violence.

It's not because there hasn't been a bill on which to vote. I have written and introduced bipartisan legislation expanding comprehensive and enforceable criminal background checks to cover commercial firearm sales such as those at gun shows and over the Internet. It is the same legislation that was authored by A-rated NRA Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Pat Toomey, R-Pa., and supported by a bipartisan majority in the Senate.

Sixteen states, including California, already require criminal background checks at gun shows and for Internet sales. However, the 34 other states only require checks for purchases made through a licensed gun dealer. That means criminals in California can drive across the state line, load up with guns at a gun show, then drive back into our state.

If my bill was passed, criminals, terrorists, domestic abusers, the dangerously mentally ill and other prohibited purchasers wouldn't be able to bypass a background check by simply going online or to a gun show.

People on all sides of the gun violence prevention issue have said their goal is to keep guns out of dangerous hands. But you cannot achieve this goal without background checks. Background checks are the only way of knowing if a person buying a gun is a criminal, a terrorist or dangerously mentally ill.

The evidence shows background checks work when they are used. Nationally last year, background checks identified and denied 88,000 sales to prohibited purchasers at licensed dealers.

However, there is no way of knowing if those 88,000 prohibited purchasers, after being denied at a licensed dealer, then bought a gun at a gun show or over the Internet with no questions asked.

This is a huge loophole that costs lives.

You don't have to look any further than the sister of my State of the Union guest Elvin Daniel to see this is true. Elvin's sister Zina had a restraining order against her husband that prevented him from passing a background check. Nevertheless, Zina's husband was able to go online and buy a .40-caliber semi-automatic handgun with which he killed Zina and two others in Wisconsin.

The House majority has refused to allow a vote on my legislation to close this loophole. While they know 90 percent of the American public supports background checks, they fear a vote in favor of my legislation would upset their extreme-right base and cause political backlash from the beltway National Rifle Association. This political calculus has trumped voting on legislation that will help save lives.

Critics of my legislation have used multiple arguments to jus-

See VOTE on Next Page

## TODAY'S LESSON IN POLITICS:

NELSON MANDELA  
SHOULD BE AN EXAMPLE  
TO US ALL...



UNLESS RAUL CASTRO  
WANTS TO SHAKE  
HANDS.



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## The nutty gnats and I

**A** Belgian colleague handed me a paper cup with floating branches of South African spider plant last year. Married to a local Anshan teacher about an hour's drive west of Shenyang, he has since given up a weekend commute. An infant boy now occupies his one-child family quota in urban China. When he handed me the plant, he said it did not require much maintenance, and its spread is prolific.

Well, my apartment is now referred to as the "forest." Even my classroom ledges were robust with green leaves to process the carbon dioxide from resident homo sapiens while adding oxygen to the atmosphere. There is just one unexpected consequence: gnats. They thrive on the potted plants. It is winter at the moment with the indoor plants sitting just above the radiators, so the gnats are warm and snug.

I visited the local garden store to seek advice on how to manage the growing gnat population and I was handed an aerosol with pictures of a frog lounging on lotus flower. I was told I could debug my environment with it. Upon closer look at the chemical content of the air spray, I decided that the frogs would just have to coexist with the gnats! (The gnats are evidently winning since I had not seen a frog around lately.)

As to my coexistence with the nuts of the world, that's another story. When the boys with the star and stripes indulge their PS4 and Xbox finger habits, they command sleek Mirages, F16s, stealth jets, and long-range B-52s. When Zhongguo delineated its air defense identification zone, the Pentagon boys and the Nippon/SoKor co-players decided to test Beijing's response by not complying. The Air Defiance Zone was thus established, gloated over by the Western press for the absence of a visible Chinese response.

The charge is that China unilaterally changed the air defense parameters in East China Sea, foreshadowing what it will do to assert a similar zone in the contested South China Sea. Spare us some historical musing.

First, the air defense zone the U.S. and its allies insist is being violated is the one the U.S. handed to Japan to prepare the Ryukyu Islands turnover confiscated after WWII. The Diaoyu-Senkaku-Pinnacle islands is part of Taiwan's geography, at one time a U.S. weather station (read, listening station) included in the turnover for Japan's administrative control. In 1970, weak China lodged a UN protest claiming historical sovereignty over the three rock outcroppings.

As is true in every continental shelf, the prospect of fossil fuel in the area is highly probable. Further south, the black gold underneath South China Sea was confirmed in 1964; that's when oil companies in the Philippines and bordering nations started carving out areas of access close to the shores they were situated. The French had the Paracels and Uncle Sam eyed western outcroppings off Palawan where crude at "East Texas oil bonanza"

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara is a resident of Saipan teaching at the Shenyang Aerospace University in China. His email is pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



was found in '75. China's Nansha (Spratleys) suddenly woke up to numerous belligerent neighbors.

Fast forward to 2013. China's economy is flourishing and, though it only has a Riga refurbished tub for a Navy carrier, it now displays air muscle. The naughty nutty boys abroad do not tire in irritating the Sino naughty nutty boys by supporting disruptive movements in old Chairman Mao's borders. Xizang (Tibet) and Xinjiang (Uighurs) are recent sites of destabilizing acts, and any hydrofoil and catamaran can frolic in the South and East China Seas. Nippon, Hanggul, and the U.S. want access to the area, pump oil, and keep their platforms and derricks, too.

US VP Biden visited China recently, putting the onus of responsibility on his host to watch "their disruptive Defense Zone behavior." This, after Nippon surprisingly nationalized Diaoyu/Senkaku/Pinnacle, after PM Shinzo Abe rattled his samurai reminiscent of militant arrogance in Manchuria, and after the U.S. Navy ignored objections to constructing a Subic/Guantanamo-like naval base in Korea's Jeju Do. PM Li Keqiang reminded his guest that Zhongguo is doing everything by the book.

On the other hand, the Penguin (UK registry, worldwide operations) world map 2012 edition has the South China Sea now replaced with Luzon Sea! Boy, when did that happen? I am sure the defensive nutty boys of Beijing did not miss the stealthy move! The world trades on China's *renminbi* power. China is smart to set rules within its delineated borders. China's energy policy moves toward alternative sources away from burning coal and oil that presently dominates its electricity plants. Besides, oil exploration technology is a western monopoly.

The aviation academy in SAU trains pilots to fly EVs in its arsenal of futuristic aircrafts, the Ruixiang. The two-seater propeller plane is not designed to carry instruments of mass destruction. Like electric vehicles, it plugs into an outlet after every 40 minutes of flying. World War III is not going to be launched on this technological innovation.

I live with the gnats. They annoy at night when they are attracted to the table lamp but they have as much right to occupy the air space as I do. I don't mind. It's the nutty boys with their oil obsessions that worry me.

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## Pineblen antau na man-ma`gas

**E**ste i chatsagan pineble ti ayu ha` i mamatmos na pottanmonedan familia. Sumen poble lokue` i tanu` antau yan listu na mañan man-ma`gas `sino offisiat publiku.

‘An haye duda, para haf` tana` chagu’. Atan kinalamten familia-mu mismu. Yangin inipus didog chinatsagamu, pues lamayot patte ennau na pinadese mau`udai gi taya` listu na offisiat publiku man-ayuda umataha i chinatsagan i tautau.

Lau duru mañgarera punta pot punta gi tanu` kulan mohon gaige offisinan niha gi hilu` aire. Dispues, gi hilu` taya` fondu gi kaha haf` na sige ha` mañgarera kulan mohon todou mauleg i kinalamten i tautau? Kase pot guaha para u fan riku gi ti apmam yan pagu ginен mabenden tanu`.

Gi hilu` este siha na diskuidu, i publiku ha dimemoria todus i chatbidan miyu maseha mamatkikilu kulan kinilu gi sagaña. Siempre u oppan sentimentoña gi otru sakan. Kontodu udu siem, pre u esalau na biahe.

### Hiniga` lache na sentimento

Asuntun immigrasian gaige ennau na atoridat gi US Congress. Esta ma-amot Marianas nu ennau na pudet ya mapega gi US Immigration. Machogue este pot hagas ma-abisa Marianas para u areglia i manadan aminasus kontra empleau ginен hiyuñg.

Poresu, siña ta ekspressia diniskontento-ta, lau gi uttimu besis i US Congress solu siña mama` disision pot haye para u fan masede man-residente yan sudadanon Amerikanu. I ta fafama na sentimen-

tu uma-ekuñgog lau solu fitme yan magahet na ginen i mayoria.

Ala kuenta i ginagau `nos kuantos i para ta presetba rasan natibu. Gi mismu tiempo machoneg asuntun casino ni uma`akontra yan i finenina na intension. Ke lau manu na plantiyas `nai manotohge hamyu? Un` huchum i petta dispues un` panag ya unna` atbettu?

Dispues, mañgge respetun miyu ni disision publiku ni dos biahe ha punu` este na primpone? Kau hamyu` i man-gueku na sabiu ya taya` balen sentimentun publiku gi este na asuntu? Haf` linie` miyu gi `nai madiside este gi fina` plebliscite pot dos besis? Na ti dañikulu yan klaru na indikasion na tai inañgoghu i publiku ni disision lehislatura gi este na attikulu? Hafa gi palabra “NO” ti in` kemprende?

Haf` na para in` disatentuye disision i publiku?

### Boñelus Dagu

Sessu teñga ta huñgog mañge` boñelus dagu gi tiempon Noche Buena. Megai sumasañgan mañge`ña este na bokan natibu. Megai ha` lokue` ti tumuñgu` fumatinas lau lagse` gi sekus niha.

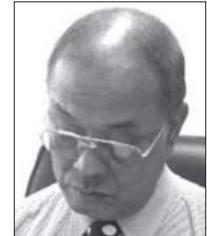
I umestotobayu` i ginaguanña este na produktun gualu na tiempu. Gigon un` atrebi mamahan pues kase guaha suettemu dididi` `sino loddru` sueddomu. Gi halom tuhu` tila`hu `nai hu kakanu` este na golai haya. Ti linañgag ni sueddon retirau yan social security.

I asuntu taimanu `nai siña tafan sosobia dagu gaige gi dikiki` na sakrifisiu. Tanume tatten guma` dineku` dagu desde Ineru otru sakan. Siempre u doku`, famunu`, fañusu ya u lachog paire gi halom

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



hatden-mu. Mientras tantos, tanume maseha kuattro ifigleran gihas kamute yan mendioka. Dalai ya ti u machuchuda` lamasamu aguon haya gi Disiembre otru sakan.

### Gi kantun unai

Hulie` amiguhu ha hahala i primet tapadan talaya. Mauleg kinine`ña na tiau yan otru siha man-dikiki` na guihan. Sumugu`yu` para bai` konbetsasiune.

Estaba lokue` gi ge`lichen si señot trosu, ma`gas tropan professot karisu ni tat tiha tuñgu`. Hu pasensiaye i konbetsasion pot para bai` taka` haf` masusesede giya siha.

Kumuentos si señot trosu asuntu siha ni mampos chagu` yan nina` siñan titanoshu. Hu akanteha para bai` lie` kau ha komprende haf` ha lalapbla. Todas sa` matompu` gi todú ineppeña.

I amiguhu talayeru ha patten tres i kinine`ña ya hana` fan mañage ham maseha para kelaguen mame guihé na taloane. Ti mefnu` lau anchu yan edukau kinemprendeña. Hu achetge ya hu diñgu i dos. Gai bale finatoghu hombre manae`yu` kelaguenhu.

Ti hu offisiona umadiñgan yan balakon trosu piot i hagas hu titeg leblun niha. Lokue`, ti sumugu`yu` pot si trosu na soluke amiguhu tantu. Probechosu tantoshu na biahe.

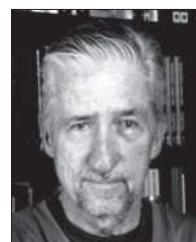
■■■

Gi bespiran Noche Buena, u fattu gasgas yan klaru na minagof ginén i korasonta gi celebrason mafañagon i Niño Jesus. Suette sa` i finattoña guiyá numae` hit bendision esperansa para ta ta`lun prumupone ha` anita. Gaige este sustansiaña gi un` sunidonn Haliman. I finu` Karolinas si biuhu` Elias P. Sablan tumuge`.

Ayu na patte sumen na`mahalañg `nai ilegña, “Jesus Yuus mame, gi nuebu na sakan, gai ase` nu hame apatta i dañu; nae` nu i deskansu i mangaige `sta gi naftan yan ayu seha kasu matai na sakan”. Estague` na patte i muna` fan tutuhu` lago`ta gi Misan Gayu. Sin inbatgu, “Tafan Magof Todus”. Felis Noche Buena!

**By TOM HAYDEN**

Los Angeles Times



*Tom Hayden is the author, most recently, of Inspiring Participatory Democracy. He is currently writing a history of Cuba's revolution and the New Left in America. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.*

He thinks Americans who travel to Cuba will also gain from the experience. Visiting Cuba, he says, will challenge “the mentality of those Cuban-Americans who think everyone from Cuba is a terrorist.”

There are still many obstacles to normalizing relations, of course, but they can be overcome gradually. It would help to have a special envoy to serve in the way George Mitchell did during the protracted Irish peace talks. Obama's next step should be to remove Cuba from the State Department's list of nations embracing state-sponsored terrorism. That no-brainer would ease Cuba's ability to engage in financial transactions abroad.

After that, Cuba and the United States should diplomatically arrange a sequenced release of prisoners who have become sticking points in relations between the two countries. Cuba should release the American contractor Alan Gross, who sits in prison after taking prohibited advanced communications equipment into Cuba on multiple occasions. The U.S. should release four imprisoned members of the so-called Cuban Five back to Cuba. The men were convicted in Miami of conspiracy to commit espionage and other charges after the Cuban air force shot down two planes carrying anti-Castro Cuban exiles.

Obama recently returned one of the five, Rene Gonzales, to serve his probation time in Havana. If the release of the other four seems politically impossible, consider the fact that in 1979 Jimmy Carter released four Puerto Ricans convicted of shooting up the U.S. Congress and trying to kill the president in 1952. After he did so, in a carefully separate but sequenced action, the Cubans released thousands of political prisoners, including many Americans.

A big impediment to normalization is the Helms-Burton Act, which grants Congress broad powers in determining U.S. relations with Cuba and prohibits recognition of a Cuban government that includes either of the Castro brothers. Obama will have to be determined and nimble in getting around congressional opposition, something he's shown himself able to do.

It's time. Obama should want his legacy to include being the first president in the last half-century to recognize its long-estranged neighbor. Let's hope the handshake at Mandela's funeral—with the whole world watching—signaled his intent.

### VOTE

*From Page 10*

ify their inaction. They have argued that it's unnecessary because criminals will never submit to a background check. Under my bill, if a criminal is trying to buy a gun online or at a gun show and are unwilling or unable to pass a background check, then they will not get a gun. This drastically reduces the number of places criminals can easily access guns.

Critics have also called my bill anti-Second Amendment. It is not. I am a gun owner and support the rights of lawful Americans to own firearms.

In reality, my bill is pro-Second Amendment. It provides reasonable exceptions so people won't have to get a background check if they inherit a family rifle, borrow a shotgun for a hunting trip, or purchase a gun from a friend, a hunting buddy or neighbor. It bans the creation of a federal registry. It allows active duty military to buy firearms in their home states and the state in which they are stationed. And it authorizes the use of a recent state concealed carry permit in lieu of a background check.

There are 187 members of Congress who have co-sponsored my background checks bill. More have said they would vote for the bill.

Why hasn't it been put up for a vote? Why isn't every member of Congress a co-sponsor of an anti-criminal, pro-Second Amendment bill that strengthens gun rights and saves lives? Those are questions every constituent should ask their representative in Congress.

Shortly after hearing of the tragic news out of Newtown, we learned about the heroism of a teacher named Victoria Soto. After hearing gunshots she hid her students in a closet and put her body between them and the gunman. Victoria was shot and killed, but she saved the lives of all the kids in her classroom.

At 27 she was brave enough to give her life. The House majority should be brave enough to give her a vote.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▾77°

▲87° ▾77°

▲87° ▾77°

▲87° ▾77°

▲87° ▾77°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▾78
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▾78
Yap	Cloudy	▲90 ▾78
Chuuk	Showers	▲86 ▾81
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85 ▾78
Kosrae	Showers	▲85 ▾78
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▾79

### Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲71 ▾61
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲38 ▾15
Hong Kong	Showers	▲57 ▾52
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲80 ▾69
London	Showers	▲46 ▾43
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲80 ▾53
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88 ▾77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲76 ▾52
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲75 ▾61
New York	Sunny	▲27 ▾21
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲53 ▾43
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲49 ▾44
Pusan	Cloudy	▲53 ▾42
Rome	Sunny	▲58 ▾38
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲47 ▾31
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲67 ▾45
Seoul	Cloudy	▲39 ▾27
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲55 ▾40
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲37 ▾30

### Tides

### Sunrise/Sunset

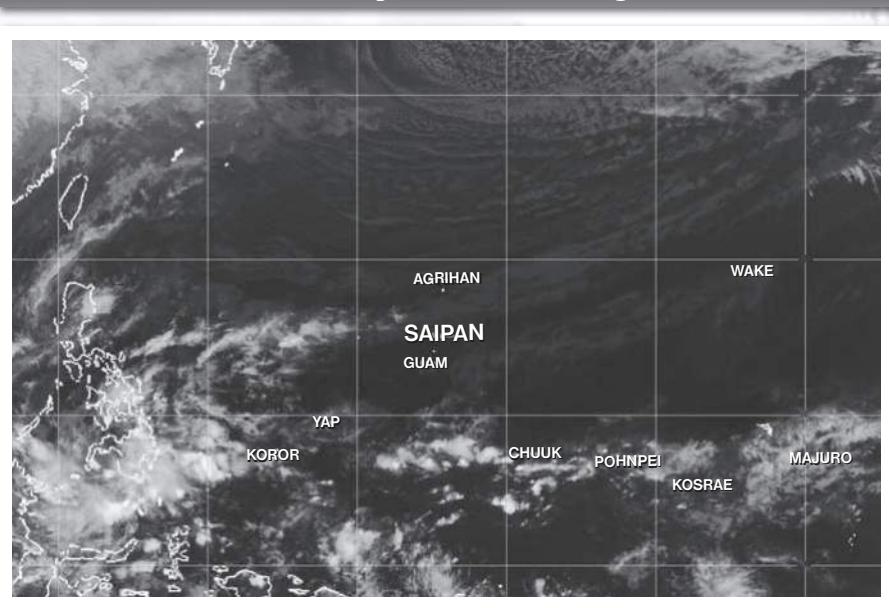
### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:36 AM	5:50 PM	Today	5:49 PM	6:09 AM
Wednesday	6:37 AM	5:50 PM	Wednesday	6:38 PM	6:57 AM
Thursday	6:37 AM	5:51 PM	Thursday	7:27 PM	7:44 AM
Friday	6:38 AM	5:51 PM	Friday	8:15 PM	8:27 AM
Saturday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM	Saturday	9:03 PM	9:09 AM

## PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak cold front extends southwest from 25N173E to 20N156E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 14N. Patchy clouds and showers are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of this boundary. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms well north of Koror between 10N and 13N from 130E to 135E. A weak surface trough is producing scattered showers between 17N and 19N from 160E to 168E including Wake Island. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 75 miles of a line from 8N130E to 8N139E to 7N143E to 7N162E. This includes Koror, Chuuk and Pohnpei but remains just south of Yap. A weak trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across the Marshall Islands in the area bounded by 4N166E to 8N168E to 9N172E to 5N179E back to 4N166E.



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##### ■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

##### ■ BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

##### ■ SAMUT SAR

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

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Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

##### For announcements:

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the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

#### HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 2, 2013

### DEPARTURES

#### SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5038	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA5078	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA5072	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

#### SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	1:35pm	2:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
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#### ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	2:40pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
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#### SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:25pm	2, 6 via NRT
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#### SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily

#### SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

0Z608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7
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#### SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:10am	6:00am	1
0Z606/701	2:20am	5:50am	3
0Z606/702	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z606/703	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z606/704	3:30am	7:20am	4, 7
0Z606/705	2:00pm	5:30pm	6

# Palauan forces taught life-saving, first-responder skills

By TIMOTHY WILSON  
JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**KOROR, Palau**—Medical personnel from U.S. Naval Hospital Guam partnered with various security forces from Palau to learn lifesaving techniques, first-responder skills, and best medical practices over a week-long seminar aboard USNS 2nd Lt. John P. Bobo.

The training was part of a Theater Security Cooperation initiative that included multiple interagency training events that were coordinated and facilitated by the U.S. Defense Representative Political-Military Affairs office. Two independent duty corpsman from Naval Hospital Guam facilitated the seminar.

“The training went superbly, it was a great experience because it was a combination of classroom instruction and hands-on skills,” said Chief Hospitalman Sharon Calmese, a Tactical Casualty Combat Care instructor from Naval Hospital Guam. “The Palauans came in with virtually no medical experience and transformed into first responders, taking care of the needs of wounded personnel and being able to respond to casualty treatment situations.”

Twenty-three members of the Palauan Department of Justice,

fire, police, airport security, and maritime forces, as well as civilian staff from the *Bobo*, practiced basic first aid, shipboard emergency tactics, and lifesaving techniques.

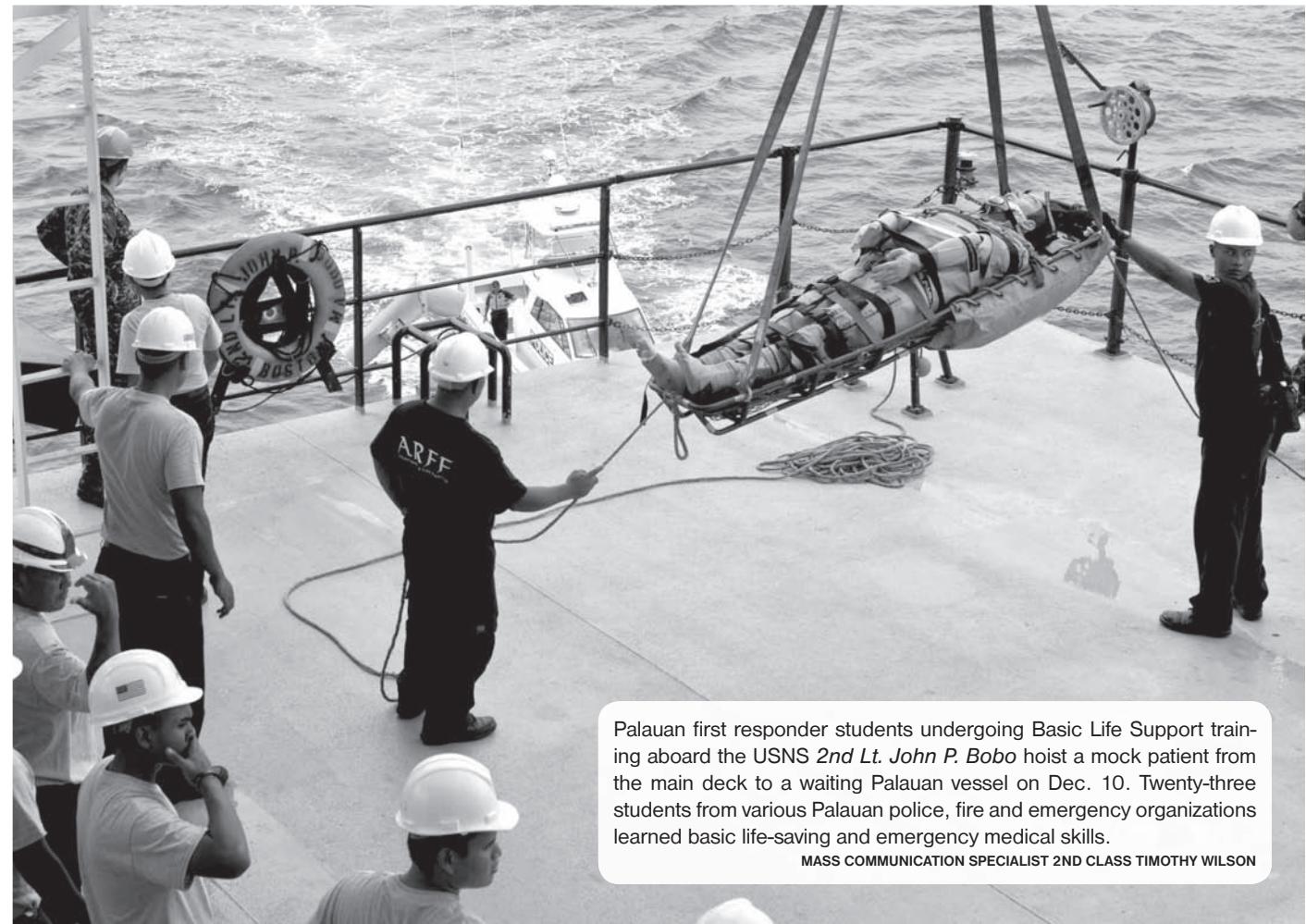
“Medical training is not an inherent skill set and not something immediately learned but we were able to establish a foundation of knowledge and the students really took on the philosophy of what we were trying to teach,” said Chief Hospitalman Stephen Royall, a Basic Life Support instructor from Naval Hospital Guam.

Many students expressed their gratitude and newly found confidence in the skills acquired during the training.

“I thank Chief Calmese and Chief Royall for their dedication, professionalism and support,” said Yvonn Temeteet, a Palauan police academy cadet. “They took the time to teach us many necessary skills.”

After intensive classroom training, the students underwent actual casualty care scenarios aboard the *Bobo* such as responding to electrocution scenarios, fire, and medical emergencies.

“Now I feel ready,” said Bion Blunt, a conservation officer for the Peleliu state government. “The training provided will help me to save lives of the people of



Palauan first responder students undergoing Basic Life Support training aboard the USNS 2nd Lt. John P. Bobo hoist a mock patient from the main deck to a waiting Palauan vessel on Dec. 10. Twenty-three students from various Palauan police, fire and emergency organizations learned basic life-saving and emergency medical skills.

MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS TIMOTHY WILSON

my country.”

Calmese said every student was a joy to work with because their professionalism was contagious. She said they all studied very hard to learn the necessary

skills and it was apparent when the hands-on portion of the class tested these skill sets.

“The Palauans were so excited to participate in the courses provided,” she said. “I received a lot of feedback from them saying that they wished this training was provided in the past and that they look forward to more training in the future.”

Royall said he hopes future TSC initiatives will occur and encourages continual reinforcement of medical practices to strengthen the existing partnership with Palau.

“We are at a start of a potentially great process,” said Royall. “The Palauans know what being a first responder means and how to react in these situations. However, medical training is something that you need to continually train and practice. Hopefully, this is the beginning where people from Guam can come out in the future and pro-

vide training and get to a point where they can begin to train themselves.”

Calmese said that regardless of one’s position or title, being a first responder may occur any time or anywhere. Knowing, understanding, and being able to apply basic lifesaving skills is a lifelong pursuit and future TSC operations in the Pacific region, not only in Palau, can only benefit the U.S. and its partner nations.

“Their enthusiasm carried to Chief Royall, myself, the ship’s crew, to everyone,” Calmese said. “It made the training all the more pervasive in the sense it also built the confidence necessary to execute these skills.”

Capt. Glen Remias, commodore of Maritime Prepositioning Ship Squadron 3 and commanding officer of the *Bobo*, lauded the efforts of the corpsman and said their efforts played a significant role in providing medi-

cal skills to the security forces of Palau.

“These skills are of intrinsic value to everyone since these types of eventualities can occur,” he said. “We came to be purposeful and we had an opportunity to provide meaningful, productive skill sets while increasing our bilateral relationship with Palau.”

Royall said that on the surface it may have seemed like a small training environment aboard the ship. However, the far-reaching implications carry a much greater weight.

“This is what we do as a profession, acting in a capacity to engage from Guam and help people on other islands to increase knowledge, capabilities and abilities,” he said. “So this was not a small accomplishment, rather a global opportunity that needs to be continued. This was truly a team effort and a successful mission.”



Chief Hospitalman Stephen Royall, a Basic Life Support instructor from Naval Hospital Guam, oversees members of the Palauan security forces as they undergo a training scenario aboard the USNS 2nd Lt. John P. Bobo on Dec. 10.

MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS TIMOTHY WILSON



Palauan first responder students practice stretcher-bearer techniques aboard USNS 2nd Lt. John P. Bobo during a Basic Life Support training class hosted by the U.S. Navy on Dec. 10.

MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS TIMOTHY WILSON



Chief Hospitalman Sharon Calmese, a Tactical Casualty Combat Care instructor, left, and Chief Hospitalman Stephen Royall, a Basic Life Support instructor, evaluate Palauan security forces during a medical lifesaving scenario on Dec. 10.

MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS TIMOTHY WILSON

# Closing Sessions for Literacy Classes



Chalan Kanoa Head Start closed out its CNMI Motheread/Fatheread class on Nov. 14, 2013, with nine participants. Trainer was Bryan Manabat, storysharing instructor was Joanne Ordona, and Head Start teacher was Gwendolyn Besong.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Dandan Head Start closed out its CNMI Motheread/Fatheread class on Nov. 22, 2013, with four participants. Trainer was Beth Demapan, storysharing instructor was Nasha Reyes, and Head Start teacher was Alan Delos Reyes.



Joaquina M. Rabauliman Head Start Center closed out its CNMI Motheread/Fatheread class on Nov. 12, 2013, with five participants. Trainer was Celina Foreman, storysharing instructor was Evangelina Espanola, and Head Start teacher was Nikita Braganza.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Kagman Head Start closed out its CNMI Motheread/Fatheread class on Nov. 26, 2013, with eight participants. The trainer was Celina Romolor-Route, storysharing instructor was Jocelyn Eusebio, and the Head Start teacher was Christielynn Alepuyo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



San Antonio Head Start Center closed out its CNMI Motheread/Fatheread class on Nov. 22, 2013, with 10 participants. The trainer was Nolyn Villagomez, storysharing instructor was Shirley Digma, and Head Start teacher was Ivan Garces.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Tanapag Head Start closed out its CNMI Motheread/Fatheread class on Nov. 27, 2013, with two participants. The trainer was Celina Foreman, storysharing instructor was Nasha Reyes, and the Head Start teacher was Stacy San Nicolas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Oleai Head Start closed out its CNMI Motheread/Fatheread class on Nov. 26, 2013, with nine participants. The trainer was Elenita Arriola while the storysharing instructor was Joelyn Varona.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Law enforcement officers and officials, together with partner agencies, have their picture taken after a three-day training called Sexual Assault Response and Investigations Training from Dec. 10 to 12, 2013, at the Pacific Islands Club.

## Training improves initiatives vs sexual violence in NMI

Department of Public Safety officers from Saipan, Rota and Tinian, along with other partnering agencies, such as Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation, Board of Parole, Division of Youth Services, Division of Customs, Family Violence Task Force, Community Guidance Center, Revenue and Tax, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and Office of Attorney General underwent a three-day exten-

sive training called Sexual Assault Response and Investigations Training from Dec. 10 to 12, 2013, at the Pacific Islands Club. The purpose of the training was to help improve the response to victims of sexual violence and to build stronger cases to hold offenders accountable.

The training was a collaborative effort between the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women Office,

Alliance of Local Services Organization, International Association of Chief of Police, Criminal Justice Planning Agency, Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Office of Attorney General, and Department of Public Safety.

The training focused on increasing the quality of cases/investigations by understanding sexual violence and victim trauma; improving evidence

recognition, collection, and preservation; implementing best practices for interviewing survivors of sexual violence; improving report writing and documentation of investigations to help support prosecution of cases; and enhancing overall awareness of the impact of culture and issues regarding sexual violence facing the CNMI.

The presenter for this event was Tom Tremblay from the

International Association of Chiefs of Police. Tremblay is a 30-year law enforcement veteran and retired chief of police from Burlington, Vermont. He is a national law enforcement consultant and trainer specializing in domestic and sexual violence response and investigations. Tremblay also serves as a faculty member for the International Association of Chiefs of Police Leadership Initiative

on Violence Against Women Crimes (domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking). This is the second training of this kind that Tremblay has held on Saipan.

Other presenters for the training were Maisie B. Tenorio, executive director for the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, and assistant attorney general Cinta Kaipat. (DPS)

## UOG to graduate 236 at fall commencement on Dec. 22

### » Esther Puakela Kia'aina to keynote commencement rites

The University of Guam fall 2013 commencement ceremonies will recognize 236 prospective graduates. Of the graduates, 67 will receive graduate degrees and 169 will receive undergraduate degrees.

The fall 2013 commencement ceremonies will be held at 2pm on Sunday, Dec. 22, 2013, in the UOG Field House. The public is invited to attend.

The commencement ceremonies will feature keynote speaker Esther Puakela Kia'aina, first deputy director, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources. Kia'aina served for nearly two decades on Capitol Hill as chief of staff to former U.S. representative and now UOG president Dr. Robert A. Underwood and to U.S. Rep. Ed Case (D-Hawai'i), and as legislative assistant to former U.S. senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-Hawai'i). Kia'aina was recently nominated by President Obama to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Insu-



Kia'aina

lar Areas at the U.S. Department of the Interior. Kia'aina was born in Guam and grew up in the village of Mangilao. She attended San Vicente Elementary and Junior High School before graduating from the Kamehameha Schools in Hawaii. She received a juris doctor degree from the George Washington University Law School in 1998 and a bachelor of arts in Political Science and International

Relations from the University of Southern California in 1985. She also attended the Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C.

"Ms. Kia'aina is an islander who will inspire our graduates with her personal story and experiences that bring together respect for indigenous cultures, an understanding of federal policy making and the power of personal integrity," said UOG president Underwood. (UOG)

## EPA offers funding to cut down pollution from diesel engines

**WASHINGTON**—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has made available \$2 million in funding for rebates to help public and private construction equipment owners replace or retrofit older diesel construction engines. The rebates will reduce harmful pollution and improve air quality in local areas.

"Exhaust from diesel construction equipment affects children, senior citizens and others in neighborhoods across the country," said Janet McCabe, acting assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. "These rebates will help equipment owners protect public health and improve air qual-

ity near construction sites while updating their fleets."

Rebates will be offered as part of the Diesel Emission Reduction Act, also known as DERA. This is the second rebate program offered since Congress reauthorized DERA in 2010 to allow rebates in addition to grants and revolving loans. The rebates will support the program's effort to replace and update existing diesel vehicles, and will target where people are exposed to unhealthy air.

Since 2008, DERA has awarded more than \$500 million to grantees across the country to retrofit, replace, or repower more than 50,000 vehicles. By cutting air pollution and

preventing thousands of asthma attacks, emergency room visits and premature deaths, these clean diesel projects are projected to generate health benefits worth up to \$8.2 billion.

Public and private construction equipment owners in eligible counties that are facing air quality challenges are encouraged to apply for rebates for the replacement or retrofit of construction equipment engines.

EPA will accept applications until Jan. 15, 2014, and anticipates awarding the rebates in February 2014.

Construction equipment engines are very durable and can operate for decades. EPA has implemented standards to make

diesel engines cleaner, but many older pieces of construction equipment remain in operation and predate these standards. Older diesel engines emit large amounts of pollutants such as nitrogen oxides and particulate matter. These pollutants are linked to health problems, including asthma, lung and heart disease, and even premature death. Equipment is readily available that can reduce emissions from these engines.

To learn more about the rebate program, the list of eligible counties, applicant eligibility and selection process, visit <http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/dera-rebate-construction.htm>. (EPA)

## SRC collaborates with partners in 3-day event

The State Rehabilitation Council, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and Council on Developmental Disabilities collaborated and cooperated on a three-day event on Dec. 4-6, 2013 at the Pacific Islands Club. The event included an orientation focused on the role of SRC, a retreat building on leadership and teamwork, and the SRC's first general membership meeting for FY 2014.

The council activities kicked off with an orientation and training facilitated by Felicitas "Tee" P. Abraham. After the "Overview of the Public Vocational Reha-

bilitation Program" presentation by Abraham, the E-Rehab SRC training series was introduced. The event was interactive and primarily aimed at promoting and encouraging SRC members and OVR staff to obtain certification.

The next presentation was titled, "Leadership Concepts and Problem Solving" facilitated by Dr. Carmen Fernandez. During lunch, Dennis Mohatt, vice president for Behavioral Health at the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, presented on the WICHE Mental Health Program, an organization dedicated to improving behav-

ioral health systems of care in the West and beyond. The day came to an end with fun and energizing team-building activities and a trivia game facilitated by Tom Thornburg and Greg Borja of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.

The three days event ended with the first general membership meeting for fiscal year 2014 with SRC chair Isidro K. Seman calling the meeting to order and vice chair Pamela Sablan taking roll call of all members. During the meeting many important issues were discussed such as the FY 2013 Annual Report, Com-

munity Statewide Needs Assessment, Federal Monitoring Review scheduled for March 2014, OVR Fiscal Matters, Consumer data, and updates on OVR/SRC activities on Rota and Tinian, among other things.

The SRC's collective purpose is to advise the OVR regarding the administration and management of the CNMI Public Vocational Rehabilitation Program. They represent the voice of people with disabilities and promote the independence and employment of qualified individuals with disabilities in the CNMI. (OVR)

# Business

## Delta dedicates new Boeing aircraft as 'Spirit of Seattle'

ATLANTA—In celebration of its 80th anniversary of service and growing presence in Seattle, Delta Air Lines on Dec. 8 unveiled a new Boeing 737-900ER aircraft as the "Spirit of Seattle," dedicated to the city of Seattle and the airline's customers, employees and partners in the region.

The dedication took place in a ceremony at Boeing Field, the same location that Delta began service in Seattle on Dec. 3, 1933, through Northwest Airways, which eventually became Northwest Airlines. The inaugural flight was flown from Spokane to Seattle and back to Spokane on a Waco JTO biplane carrying no passengers. Initial passenger service was a Tacoma-Seattle-Wenatchee-Spokane route using 7-passenger, 120-mph Hamilton H47 Metalplanes.

Today, Delta operates 35 peak-day departures to 15 destinations from its growing gateway in Seattle, including non-stop international service to Amsterdam, Paris, Tokyo-Narita, Tokyo-Haneda, Shanghai and Beijing. Additional international service is planned in 2014 to London-Heathrow as well as Hong Kong and Seoul, pending government approval. Delta will also expand Seattle service to Anchorage, Alaska; Las Vegas; Los Angeles; Portland, Ore.; San Diego; and San Francisco.

**» Dedication thanks customers, employees and partners for decades of service in Seattle**

and also recently announced new service to Fairbanks, Alaska, and Vancouver, Canada, beginning in the summer of 2014.

"For 80 years, our customers, employees and partners in Seattle have embraced Delta, and our growth here would not be possible without them," said Mike Medeiros, Delta's vice president—Seattle. "The Spirit of Seattle aircraft will proudly bear its name as it travels around the country as a representation of Delta's history in Seattle and a sign of our thanks and commitment to our future here."

More than 100 Delta Chairman's Club honorees attended the dedication event along with local employees and corporate and community partners. The honorees are accompanying the aircraft on its delivery flight from Seattle to Atlanta prior to entering service later this month.

The 'Spirit of Seattle' is the ninth of 100 new 737-900ERs that will be delivered to Delta between 2013 and 2018 as it retires older mainline jets and upgrades its fleet. The 737-900ER will be deployed on several routes to and from Seattle, among others, and has a range of 3,200 nautical miles, giving it the ability to operate any domestic route in Delta's extensive network. (*Delta Air Lines*)

## UN study: Electrical waste up a 3rd by 2017



In this Feb. 4, 2013 file photo discarded television sets and computer monitors are piled in a consolidated container for electronic scrap at the Bahrenfeld recycling park in Hamburg, Germany.

**BERLIN** (AP)—The mountain of refrigerators, cellphones, TV sets and other electrical waste disposed of annually worldwide is forecast to grow by a third by 2017, according to a U.N. study released Sunday.

E-waste—defined as anything with a battery or a cord—can pose a big problem because it often contains substances that are harmful to humans and the environment if not properly treated. On the other hand, some of it can be profitably recycled.

A U.N. think tank dedicated to the issue estimates that the amount of e-waste will rise from almost 48.9 million metric tons (53.9 million tons) in 2012 to 65.4 million metric tons (72.09 million tons) in 2017. That's

nearly 200 times the weight of the Empire State Building.

The U.S. dumped the most last year, generating 9.4 million metric tons of e-waste, followed by China with 7.3 million metric tons.

Per capita the U.S. was even further ahead, with almost 30 kilograms (66 pounds) of high-tech trash for China's 5.4 kilograms (12 pounds). The global average is 7 kilograms (15 pounds) per person.

But China is catching up, evidenced by the fact that it had the highest volume of electrical goods put on the market last year with 11.1 million metric tons. The U.S. had about 10 million metric tons.

Taken together, developing

and emerging countries already produce as much e-waste as the developed world, said Ruediger Kuehr, who heads the StEP secretariat, based at the United Nations University in Bonn, Germany.

"There is a hunger of humankind for technology that makes our lives easier," Kuehr told The Associated Press. "It's not only the communication technologies but also medical devices, washing machines and e-toys that are very popular around Christmas time."

The report, which based its findings on estimates of how long such products last, and hard data on discarded products in several countries, is the first time that globally comparable data on e-waste have been publicly released, he said.

# Nation

## AP-GfK survey: Health law seen to be eroding coverage

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Americans who already have health insurance are blaming President Barack Obama's health care overhaul for their rising premiums and deductibles, and overall 3 in 4 say the rollout of coverage for the uninsured has gone poorly.

An Associated Press-GfK poll finds that health care remains politically charged going into next year's congressional elections. Keeping the refurbished HealthCare.gov website running smoothly is just one of Obama's challenges, maybe not the biggest.

The poll found a striking level of unease about the law among people who have health insurance and aren't looking for any more government help. Those are the 85 percent of Americans who the White House says don't have to be worried about the president's

historic push to expand coverage for the uninsured.

In the survey, nearly half of those with job-based or other private coverage say their policies will be changing next year—mostly for the worse. Nearly 4 in 5 (77 percent) blame the changes on the Affordable Care Act, even though the trend toward leaner coverage predates the law's passage.

Sixty-nine percent say their premiums will be going up, while 59 percent say annual deductibles or copayments are increasing.

Only 21 percent of those with private coverage said their plan is expanding to cover more types of medical care, though coverage of preventive care at no charge to the patient has been required by the law for the past couple of years.

Fourteen percent said coverage for spouses is being re-

## Groom killed while helping motorist in snow

**CHICAGO** (AP)—A man married less than seven hours was killed along with a stranded motorist he stopped to help in the snow when they were struck by several vehicles, authorities say.

The man was on the way back from his wedding reception to a hotel when the accident happened.

William "Riley" Knight, 49, of Crown Point, was driving with his wife, Nikki, about 11:45 p.m. Saturday when they saw a woman who had slid off the road in the snow

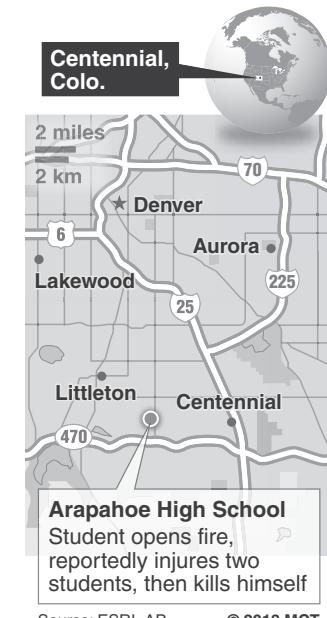
near Crown Point.

"He said, 'We've got to stop, it's late and they need help,'" Nikki Knight told the Chicago Sun-Times (<http://bit.ly/IN-P0kU>) on Sunday.

He pulled his truck into a nearby driveway and Nikki Knight waited inside while he went out to help Linda Darlington, 42, of Crown Point. They were standing by the side of the road when they were struck by one vehicle, and then two more, the Lake County sheriff's office said.

Nikki Knight, a registered

## Colorado governor visits school shooting victim



**CENTENNIAL, Colo.** (AP)—Colorado's governor asked the nation Sunday for prayers for the 17-year-old girl who was critically wounded by a classmate at her suburban Denver high school.

Gov. John Hickenlooper also credited security procedures adopted after the 1999 massacre at nearby Columbine High School for helping put a quick end to the Arapahoe High School shooting by Karl Pierson, an 18-year-old student who shot Claire Davis at point-blank range before killing himself.

"We all have to keep Claire in our thoughts and prayers," he told CBS' "Face the Nation." Davis is hospitalized at Littleton Adventist Hospital.

Davis is in critical condition and stable, but she is in a coma, her family said in a statement issued on the hospital's Facebook page Sunday.

"The first responders got Claire to the right place, at

library when she was shot in the head. Arapahoe County Sheriff Grayson Robinson has said investigators think she was shot at random by Pierson, who had gone into the school looking for a teacher with whom he had a dispute.

Pierson may have been nursing a grudge against the teacher—a librarian and head of the school debate team—since September. Pierson was on the team and had been disciplined by the librarian for reasons yet to be disclosed, the sheriff said. He said Pierson threatened that teacher in September and came to the school Friday intending to harm him and inflict numerous other casualties.

Pierson excelled at speech and debate and was passionate about the team, friends said. They described him as a smart student who apparently didn't shirk from confrontations in class.

# Asia

## 9 out of 10 'Haiyan' deaths still unidentified

By MARLON RAMOS  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Nearly nine out of 10 fatalities in the onslaught of Super Typhoon Haiyan have remained unidentified more than a month after the storm hit the country, according to an official advisory.

The figure was put out by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council on its website, but it differed with that obtained by the *Inquirer* from NDRRMC executive director Eduardo del Rosario, who put the number at "only" 33 percent of the total death toll.

Del Rosario said he would have the disparity in figures checked.

In its latest advisory, the NDRRMC said the death toll in the 24th weather disturbance to strike the Philippines this year had climbed to 6,057 as 24 more bodies were recovered on Saturday.

The council said 1,779 persons were still missing while 27,568 were injured in various typhoon-related incidents.

Of the actual retrieved bodies,



File photo shows dead bodies in body bags wait to be brought to a mass grave in Tacloban City, Leyte, Philippines.

### 15 bodies a day

In Tacloban City, regarded as the ground zero of the storm, 2,442 victims were still nameless as their families have yet to come forward to identify them.

In Palo town, located next to Tacloban, a total of 1,089 bodies remained unidentified while in nearby Tanauan town, authorities were clueless about the identities of 1,252 victims.

Rosario said it might take a while for the government to finish the identification of all those who died.

Since the government started looking for the fatalities, Del Rosario said 10 to 15 bodies were being retrieved daily by the team headed by Senior Supt. Pablito Cordeta.

He said about 1,900 bodies, or 33 percent of the total num-

ber of recovered victims, remained unnamed.

"After four, five or six days, you cannot identify the victims anymore. But until now, we're still recovering 10 to 15 bodies every day," Del Rosario said over the phone.

"It will really take time for us to finish the identification. In previous disasters, the government cannot tell if the missing person has been found or not because we do not have any records," he said. Told that the unidentified victims in the NDRRMC advisory accounted for 88 percent of

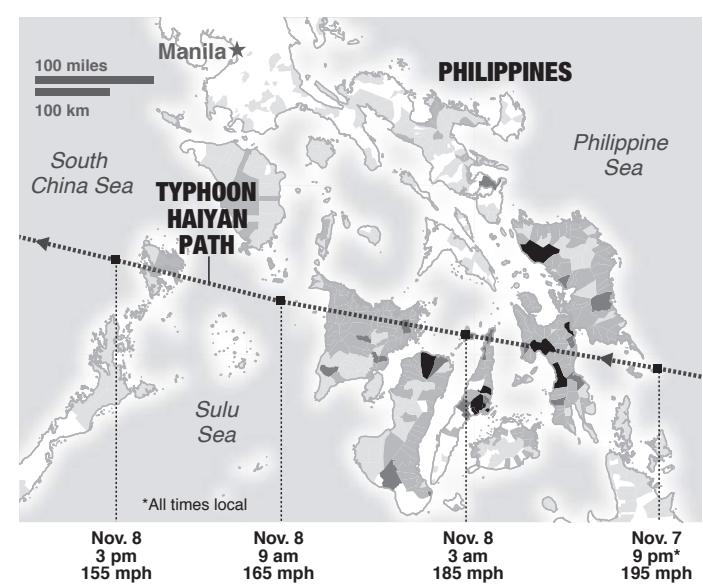
the recovered bodies, Del Rosario said: "It's only 33 percent. About 67 percent had been identified. I think your figure is wrong."

When told that the *Inquirer* got the statistics from the NDRRMC's own latest tally, he replied: "I will have that checked. What I know is that about 1,900 bodies were unidentified. That's about 33 percent of the death toll."

According to Del Rosario, the National Bureau of Investigation had been tasked with leading the proper identification of bodies.

### Deadliest

Five weeks after Typhoon Haiyan tore across the Philippines, the official death toll now stands at 6,009, making it the country's deadliest recorded typhoon.



#### By the numbers

- Official death toll **6,009** • Still missing **1,779**
- Displaced **4 mil.** • Homes destroyed **1.2 mil.**
- Aid requested by U.N. **\$791 mil.**
- Rainfall up to **15.75 in. (40 cm)**

Source: USAID, BBC, AFP



© 2013 MCT

## China's flag-bearing rover photographed on moon

**BEIJING** (AP)—China hailed its lunar probe mission a success after the country's first moon rover and the landing vehicle that carried it there took photos of each other on the surface, state media reported.

The six-wheeled rover moved to a spot about 9 meters (10 yards) north of the landing vehicle on Sunday night China time and the pair took photos

for about a minute, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. The color images transmitted back to Earth showed the Chinese flag on the Yutu, or "Jade Rabbit" rover, named after a mythological creature.

President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang were at the Beijing Aerospace Control Center to hear lunar program chief commander Ma Xingrui

declare the Chang'e 3 mission a success, Xinhua reported.

In a congratulatory message, the Communist Party's central committee, State Council or China's Cabinet, and the Central Military Commission hailed the mission as a "milestone" in the development of China's space programs, a "new glory" in Chinese explorations and the "outstanding contribution" of China

## 21 dead as bus falls from Manila highway onto van

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—A passenger bus plunged from an elevated highway in suburban Manila and fell onto a van passing below Monday morning, killing at least 21 people and injuring 20 others, police said.

TV footage showed a number of bodies strewn around the bus wreckage with police officers nearby. The van was an unrecognizable pile of smashed white metal.

The bus veered off the Skyway, as the elevated road is called, and crashed onto the van in suburban Paranaque city at dawn, said police Superintendent Elizabeth Velasquez. The van's driver was killed and the bus driver was in serious condition in a hospital, she said.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the accident but the highway was wet from rain, said Ivy Vidal, a spokeswoman from Skyway Operations and Maintenance Corp.

Irene Sisperes, a motorist who witnessed the accident, said she was driving with her daughter at

80 kilometers per hour (50 mph) when the bus overtook her car. She estimated that the bus was traveling at between 100 kilometers per hour (62 mph) and 110 kph (68 mph).

She said it was still dark and it was raining when the accident happened.

"After a few meters, I saw the bus fell and I shouted, 'The bus fell, the bus fell!'" she told DZMM radio, adding there were no other cars nearby.

#### Executive Administrative Assistant

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- Knowledge of Microsoft Office Applications, effective
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- Interpersonal skills are essential.

Applications may be obtained at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Dead-line for submission of application is December 17, 2013 to be considered.

#### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Century Tours, Inc. is inviting qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

##### Tour Guide (10)

###### Job Summary:

Perform all and/or any combination of the following duties: Escort individuals or groups on short cruises, sightseeing tours or through places of interest, jungle tours, water sports and other beach activities, shopping, dining, etc. describe tour points of interest to individuals or groups, and respond to questions; monitor guests' activities in order to ensure compliance with company or tour regulations and safety practices, greet and register visitors and issue any required identification badges and/or safety devices, distribute brochures, show individual presentations and/or explain company processes and operation at tour sites, and perform other related duties as assigned or as required.

###### Qualification Requirements:

High School Graduate, GED or equivalent and must have 1 or more years work experience in travel or tour operation, sales or service related work. English and Chinese speaker preferred. Must have a valid driver's license with clean driving record. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing with excellent communication, customer, sales and leadership skills is an advantage.

Applications may be obtained at the Kanoa Resort on Beach Road in Susupe, Saipan while resumes may be emailed at camille.orallo@saipan.travel. All resumes and applications must be submitted to the Human Resources Department at the Century Tours, Inc. Front Office no later than December 17, 2013. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing may be required prior to employment.

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**Duties and Responsibilities:** Manage a small retail business with multiple locations on Saipan. Manage the competitiveness, profitability and growth of the company. Duties includes planning, developing strategic and operation plans, managing cash flow and liquidity, evaluating product lines and displays, setting customer services to attract and achieve customer retention, overseeing purchases, and achieving budget and minimizing cost variances, ensuring security and loss prevention management and regulatory compliance, acquiring technological and achieving service advantages from retail management software and networked POS systems. Train a young un-experienced Management Trainee/Owner for take-over in the medium term. Flexible hours are expected, to manage opening and closings of multiple stores.

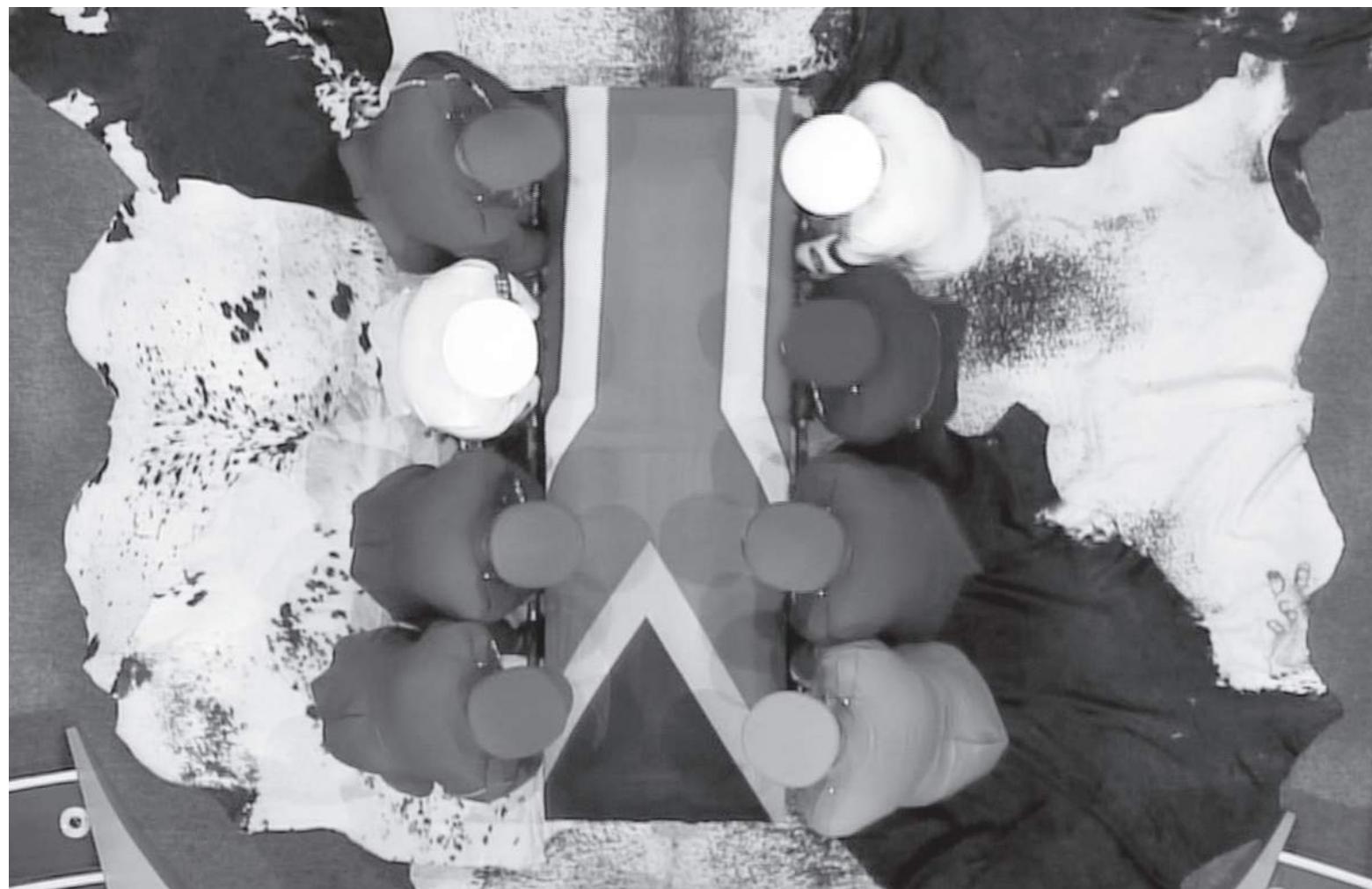
**Qualifications:** Applicants must have at a minimum a bachelors or undergraduate degree in business or management from an AACSB accredited University. **Conceptual training of at least one course each in business policy, marketing management, operations management, management/cost accounting, business finance and management systems from an accredited business school are required.** The firm operates in a saturated and very competitive retail environment. Applicants are required to have at least ten years business experience with last four years hands on experience of retailing FMCG, food and meat products on Saipan. Salary range is \$5,000-\$6,000 per month, depending on experience.

Interested and qualified applicants are invited to submit a resume, police clearance and salary expectations by mail to P.O. Box 504514, Saipan MP 96950 by 30th December 2013. All applicants must submit a copy of their tertiary qualifications and employment references with telephone contact numbers for verification. **U.S. citizens are sought for this position.** THIS IS A MANAGEMENT POSITION, AND WE WILL NOT ENTERTAIN WALK IN APPLICANTS OR PHONE ENQUIRIES. Only applicants that meet the above requirements will be notified for an interview.

Pacific Century Inc., is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

# World

## Mandela buried in rolling hills of South Africa



Military officers prepare to lift South African President Nelson Mandela's casket following his funeral service in Qunu, South Africa, Sunday, Dec. 15, 2013. AP

**QUNU, South Africa** (AP)—His flag-draped casket resting on a carpet of animal skins, Nelson Mandela was laid to rest Sunday in the green, rolling hills of the eastern hamlet where he began his extraordinary journey—one that led him from prison to the presidency, a global symbol of endurance and reconciliation in the fight against South Africa's racist rule.

Artillery boomed and military aircraft roared through a cloud-studded sky, as the simple and the celebrated gathered to pay their final respects in Mandela's native village of Qunu at a state funeral that blended ancient tribal rituals with a display of the might of the new, integrated South Africa.

"Yours was truly a long walk to freedom and now you have achieved the ultimate freedom in the bosom of your maker," Brig. Gen. Monwabisi Jamangile, chaplain-general of the South African military, said as Mandela's casket was lowered into the ground at the family gravesite.

For South Africans, it was also a time for reflection about the racial integration they achieved when Mandela presided over the end of apartheid, and the economic inequality and other challenges that have yet to be

"Rest in peace."

"I realized that the old man is no more, no more with us," said Bayanda Nyengule, head of a local museum about Mandela, his voice cracking as he described the burial attended by several hundred mourners after a larger funeral ceremony during which some 4,500 people, including heads of state, royalty and celebrities, paid their last respects.

The burial ended a 10-day mourning period that began with Mandela's death on Dec. 5 at 95, and included a Johannesburg memorial attended by nearly 100 world leaders and three days during which tens of thousands of South Africans of all races and backgrounds filed past Mandela's casket in the capital, Pretoria.

For South Africans, it was also a time for reflection about the racial integration they achieved when Mandela presided over the end of apartheid, and the economic inequality and other challenges that have yet to be

overcome and seem certain to test his legacy's endurance.

The burial site marked a return to Mandela's humble roots, but the funeral trappings were elaborate. South African honor guards from the army, navy and air force, including both black and white officers, marched in formation along a winding dirt road.

In contrast to the military pomp, some speakers evoked the traditions of the Xhosa tribe, to which Mandela's Thembu clan belongs.

"A great tree has fallen, he is now going home to rest with his forefathers," said Chief Ngangomhlaba Matanzima, a representative of Mandela's family who wore an animal skin. "We thank them for lending us such an icon."

Another speaker, Zolani Mkiva, served for many years as Mandela's praise singer, a traditional role in which he shouted out the leader's attributes to audiences, prefacing

Mandela's many stations in life with the words "very important" person, prince, patriot, politician, prisoner, philosopher, president, pensioner, patient, papa.

"The bones of our ancestors are vibrating. The waves of African oceans are reverberating," Mkiva said.

In keeping with Xhosa traditions, Mandela's casket was brought to Qunu Saturday draped in a lion skin, an honor bestowed on those of a high rank like Mandela, who is the son of a traditional clan chief. His body lay for the night in his family home before burial, a time when tradition dictates that family elders "talk" to the body to explain to his spirit what is happening.

South African television showed Mandela's casket at the family gravesite, but the broadcast was stopped just before the coffin was lowered into the ground at the request of the Mandela family, which often talked of how it had to share its patriarch with the nation and the world.

Hilde Johnson, special representative of the United Nations secretary-general for South Sudan, said in a statement that the U.N. mission in Juba was "deeply concerned" over the fighting that broke out late Sunday and which continued Monday.

"As the Special Representative of the Secretary General I urge all parties in the fighting to cease hostilities immediately and exercise restraint," the statement said. "I have been in touch regularly with the key leaders, including at the highest levels to call for calm."

*Muhumuza reported from Kampala, Uganda.*

### MANDELA FUNERAL QUOTES

#### 'Go well Madiba'

**QUNU, South Africa** (AP)—Leaders and family members on Sunday praised South Africa's anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela as a man who united and freed his nation by fighting to end racist rule and then embracing forgiveness and reconciliation.

This is a selection of quotes from the funeral service in Mandela's southeastern childhood village of Qunu:

"It is the end of an extraordinary journey that began 95 years ago. It is the end of 95 glorious years, of a freedom fighter, a dedicated and humble servant of the people of South Africa. Fountain of wisdom, a pillar of strength, and a beacon of hope for all those fighting for a just and equitable world order ... Your long walk to freedom has ended in a physical sense ... Our own journey continues ... We wish today to express two simple words: Thank you. Thank you for being everything we wanted and needed in a leader during a difficult period in our lives."—South African President Jacob Zuma.

■ ■ ■

"Your abundant reserves of love, simplicity, honesty, service, humility, care, courage, foresight, patience, tolerance, equality, justice continually serve as a source of enormous strength to many millions of people in South Africa and the world ... Today mingled with our grief is the enormous pride that one of our own has during his lifetime and now in your death united the people of South Africa and the entire world on a scale never before experienced in history ... My life is in a void, and I don't know who to turn to."—Ahmed Kathrada, imprisoned on Robben Island with Mandela for years.

■ ■ ■

"Go well Madiba. go well to the land of our ancestors, you have ran your race ... We will carry lessons you taught us throughout our lives ... As South Africans we must stop pointing fingers, but must rather lead by example, as you did and do something positive for South Africa."—Mandela's granddaughter Nandi Mandela, using his clan name.

■ ■ ■

"It is through Mandela that the world cast its eyes on South Africa and took notice of the severe and organized repression of the black South Africans. Yet it was also through Mandela that the world would learn the spirit of endurance, the triumph of forgiveness and the beauty of reconciliation."—Ndaba Mandela, Mandela's grandson.

■ ■ ■

"The Madiba song may have ended, but its melody lingers on."—Bantu Holomisa, family friend.

■ ■ ■

"There is no tomorrow without a yesterday. There is no tonight without a yesterday. The bones of our ancestors are vibrating. The waves of African oceans are reverberating."—Zolani Mkiva, Mandela's former praise singer.

■ ■ ■

"As we celebrate Madiba's life, we also remember important concepts that Madiba taught us: Tolerance and forgiveness."—Cyril Ramaphosa, deputy leader of the country's governing party, the African National Congress.

■ ■ ■

He "gave his life for the sake of justice and freedom, who lived the world healing practices of forgiveness and inclusivity, compassion and integrity ... We praise and thank you, oh God, for that Nelson Mandela, for his faithfulness to your call, his example of justice, peace and reconciliation and his courage to endure suffering, rejection and persecution for the sake of others."—Bishop Don Dabula.

# Overdrive

## Fuel economy of new vehicles sets record high

**WASHINGTON**—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Friday issued its annual report that tracks the average fuel economy of vehicles sold in the United States. The report shows that model year 2012 vehicles achieved an all-time high fuel economy of 23.6 miles per gallon (mpg). This represents a 1.2-mpg increase over the previous year, making it the second largest annual increase in the last 30 years. Fuel economy has now increased in seven of the last eight years.

"Today's new vehicles are cleaner and more fuel efficient than ever, saving American families money at the gas pump and helping to keep the air that we breathe cleaner," said Janet McCabe, acting assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. "Each year new technologies are coming on line to keep driving these positive trends toward greater and greater efficiency."

### EPA, DOE release annual Fuel Economy Guide with 2014 models

**WASHINGTON**—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy are releasing the 2014 Fuel Economy Guide, providing consumers with a valuable resource to identify and choose the most fuel efficient and low greenhouse gas emitting vehicles that meet their needs. The 2014 models include efficient and low-emission vehicles in a variety of classes and sizes, ensuring a wide variety of choices available for consumers.

"For American families, the financial and environmental bottom lines are high priorities when shopping for a new vehicle," said Administrator Gina McCarthy. "This year's guide is not just about how the latest models stack up against each other; it's about providing people the best information possible to make smart decisions affecting their pocketbooks and the planet."

"The Energy Department is committed to building a strong 21st century transportation sector that cuts harmful pollution, saves consumers' money and leads to a more sustainable energy future," said Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz. "By providing reliable, user-friendly fuel economy information, the Fuel Economy Guide is helping Americans choose the right fuel efficient vehicle for their family and business and save money at the pump."

The guide provides "Top Ten" lists allowing consumers to see the most efficient advanced technology vehicles as well as the most efficient gasoline and diesel powered vehicles. Consumers will also find

Fuel economy will continue to improve under the Obama administration's historic National Clean Car Program standards. The program doubles fuel economy standards by 2025 and cuts vehicle greenhouse gas emissions by half. The standards will save American families \$1.7 trillion dollars in fuel costs, and by 2025 will result in an average fuel savings of more than \$8,000 per vehicle. The program will also save 12 billion barrels of oil, and by 2025 will reduce oil consumption by more than 2 million barrels a day—as much as half of the oil imported from OPEC every day.

The large fuel economy improvement in model year 2012 is consistent with longer-term trends. Fuel economy has increased by 2.6 mpg, or 12 percent, since 2008, and by 4.3 mpg, or 22 percent, since 2004. The average carbon dioxide emissions of 376 grams per mile in model year 2012 also represent-



A Ford Fusion, left, and a C-Max Hybrid are displayed at The Ford Store in Morgan Hill, Calif., in August 2013. PATRICK TEHAN/SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS/MCT

ed a record low. While EPA does not yet have final data for model year 2013, preliminary projections are that fuel economy will

rise by 0.4 mpg, and carbon dioxide emissions will decrease by 6 grams per mile in 2013.

EPA's annual "Light-Duty

Automotive Technology, Carbon Dioxide Emissions, and Fuel Economy Trends: 1975 through 2013" attributes much of the recent improvement to the rapid adoption of more efficient technologies such as gasoline direct injection engines, turbochargers, and advanced transmissions.

Consumers have many more high fuel economy choices due to these and other technologies,

such as hybrid, diesel, electric, and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. Consumers can choose from five times more car models with a combined city/highway fuel economy of 30 mpg or more, and from twice as many SUVs that achieve 25 mpg or more, compared to just five years ago.

The new report can be found at: <http://epa.gov/otaq/fetrends.htm>. (EPA)

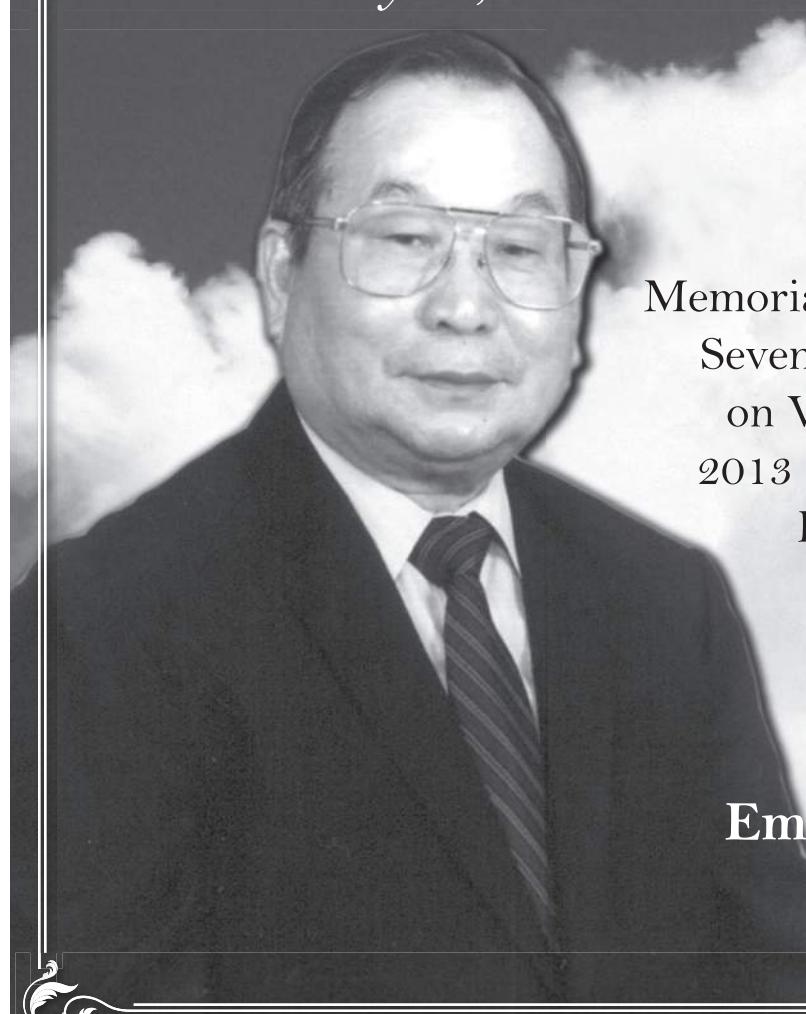
#### ON THE NET

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*In Memory of*

**Toshinori Chinen**

*July 24, 1935 – December 10, 2013*



Memorial Services will be held at  
Seventh Day Adventist Center  
on Wednesday, December 18,  
2013, from 1:00pm to 4:00pm.  
His remains will be flown  
to Okinawa, Japan  
on Thursday morning,  
December 19, 2013.

**Emerenciana D. Chinen  
and family**

# Life & Style

## Mystery man gives 'Tips For Jesus'—up to \$10,000

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The \$111.05 New York restaurant receipt includes a \$1,000 tip and the words "god bless!" scrawled across it.

The handle @tipsforjesus is stamped next to an illegible signature.

In recent weeks, similar tabs have popped up in restaurants from coast to coast and even in Mexico, with tips of as much as \$10,000—all charged to American Express.

On Sunday just after midnight, the mysterious man surfaced again—this time in Fairfield, Conn. He left a \$5,000 gratuity on a \$112 bill at the Seagrape, an eatery where college kids drop by for cheap beers by the beach.

Tips for Jesus—an Instagram account filled with photos documenting the tips—has more than 54,000 followers. The ac-

count displays photos of smiling servers holding receipts with outlandish gratuities on bills also tallied in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Phoenix and Ann Arbor, Mich. On Twitter, Tips for Jesus has nearly 3,000 followers but no tweets.

Their order—a bourbon, a beer, an appetizer, a pork ragout and a pork chop—amounted to \$111.05, plus \$1,000 for the waiter.

When they were gone, "Aruj approached me, handed me the receipt and said, 'Is this for real?'" said general manager Benjamin Cramer.

Again, before leaving, the tipster had snapped a photo of the waiter with the check and posted it on Instagram.

The tipster also wrote his cell-phone number at the bottom of the tab, telling Cramer to call him if American Express had any issues with processing the receipt.

After seeing the amount, Cramer said he understood why the credit card company

might be suspicious and he himself was curious. So he called the number. The man who answered reassured the manager that the tip was real.

The man demanded anonymity, so Cramer did not pursue tracking his identity.

A \$1,000 tip also went to a waiter at the Hungry Cat in Los Angeles after three men finished their dinner, said restaurant spokeswoman Jannis Swermer. One of them stamped the check (at)tipsforjesus.

In another photo, a Phoenix bartender beams looking at his \$2,500 tip.

"This middle-aged gentleman came in with a woman, and they sat at the bar," says Micah Olson, the bartender at a restaurant called Crudo who served them one of the most expensive whiskeys at \$70 per ounce.

"They sat at the bar and had 5

ounces total," Olson says. "The guy was really cool and bought me two ounces."

The man asked for the check—\$530.67—and paid with his Amex "Black Card," an invitation-only charge card issued to affluent clients.

"When they left, I saw the tip and I went, 'Wow!'" says the 35-year-old bartender. "I hope one of these days, we'll find out who he is."

The mysterious stranger apparently knows some Spanish.

A tab dated Dec. 5, 2013, from a resort in Punta Mita, Mexico, is posted on Instagram with the comment, "Muchas gracias Carlos!"—meaning "many thanks" to Carlos Mendez, a grinning young waiter holding a bill for \$158.11 with a tip of 13,100 Mexican pesos, or about \$1,000.

One day last week, "I saw him looking so happy, holding

the check," said Benito Robles, a concierge at the resort. "I asked him, 'Why are you smiling?' and he showed me the tip."

Mendez went home to his wife and two kids in a nearby village and took some vacation, according to Robles.

Across the land, restaurant servers are posting pleas on Instagram asking the mysterious tipster to visit them, giving exact locations.

He's not the only one with a knack for generosity at the table.

Seth Collins, of Lexington, Ky., has been leaving \$500 tips around the country—following his late brother's instructions.

Before Aaron Collins died last year, he gave his brother a mission: Eat, be merry and leave a giant tip.

Through his family, he's given away more than 80 tips throughout the U.S.

**LONDON (AP)**—Known on the one hand for his starring role in "Lawrence of Arabia," leading tribesmen in daring attacks across the desert wastes, and on the other for his headlong charges into drunken debauchery, Peter O'Toole was one of the most magnetic, charismatic and fun figures in British acting.

O'Toole, who died Saturday at age 81 at the private Wellington Hospital in London after a long bout of illness, was nominated a record eight times for an Academy Award without taking home a single statue.

He was fearsomely handsome, with burning blue eyes and a penchant for hard living which long outlived his deci-

## 'Lawrence of Arabia' star Peter O'Toole dead at 81

sion to give up alcohol. Broadcaster Michael Parkinson told Sky News television it was hard to be too sad about his passing.

"Peter didn't leave much of life unlived, did he?" he said.

A reformed—but unrepentant—hell-raiser, O'Toole long suffered from ill health. Always thin, he had grown wraithlike in later years, his famously handsome face eroded by years of outrageous drinking.

But nothing diminished his flamboyant manner and candor.

"If you can't do something willingly and joyfully, then don't do it," he once said. "If you give up drinking, don't go moaning about it; go back on the bottle. Do. As. Thou. Wilt."

O'Toole began his acting career as one of the most exciting young talents on the British stage. His 1955 "Hamlet," at the Bristol Old Vic, was critically acclaimed.

International stardom came in David Lean's epic "Lawrence of Arabia." With only a few minor movie roles behind him, O'Toole was unknown to most moviegoers when they first saw him as T.E. Lawrence, the mythic British World War I soldier and scholar who led an Arab rebellion against the Turks.

His sensitive portrayal of

In this undated photo Actor Peter O'Toole is shown. O'Toole, the charismatic actor who achieved instant stardom as Lawrence of Arabia and was nominated eight times for an Academy Award, has died. He was 81.

AP

Lawrence's complex character garnered O'Toole his first Oscar nomination, and the spectacularly photographed desert epic remains his best known role. O'Toole was tall, fair and strikingly handsome, and the image of his bright blue eyes peering out of an Arab headdress in Lean's film was unforgettable.

Playwright Noel Coward once said that if O'Toole had



been any prettier, they would have had to call the movie "Florence of Arabia."

Prime Minister David Cameron said Sunday the movie was his favorite film, calling O'Toole's performance "stunning."

Actor Will Ferrell also remembered "Lawrence of Arabia."

"My father took me to see a re-release of 'Lawrence of Arabia' on the big screen and I couldn't get over how amazing that movie looked for the time it was shot and how charismatic he was on screen," Ferrell said Sunday at the New York premiere of "Anchorman 2." "You hear a name like Peter O'Toole, you hear these names and you go, 'uh, yeah, OK, they were movie stars,' then you watch them on film and you go, 'they really were movie stars.'"

In 1964's "Becket," O'Toole played King Henry II to Richard Burton's Thomas Becket, and won another Oscar nomination. Burton shared O'Toole's fond

ness for drinking, and their offset carousing made headlines.

O'Toole played Henry again in 1968 in "The Lion in Winter," opposite Katharine Hepburn, for his third Oscar nomination.

Four more nominations followed: in 1968 for "Goodbye, Mr. Chips," in 1971 for "The Ruling Class," in 1980 for "The Stunt Man," and in 1982 for "My Favorite Year." It was almost a quarter-century before he received his eighth and last, for "Venus."

For writer-producer Judd Apatow, in addition to "Lawrence of Arabia," "My Favorite Year," also stands out. "I related to the comedy writer hanging out with the mad actor because I've done that a few times," he said at the "Anchorman 2" premiere.

Seamus Peter O'Toole was born Aug. 2, 1932, the son of Irish bookie Patrick "Spats" O'Toole and his wife Constance. There is some question about whether Peter was born in Connemara, Ireland, or in

Leeds, northern England, where he grew up, but he maintained close links to Ireland, even befriending the country's now-president, Michael D. Higgins.

Ireland and the world have "lost one of the giants of film and theater," Higgins said in a statement.

After a teenage foray into journalism at the Yorkshire Evening Post and national military service with the navy, a young O'Toole auditioned for the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and won a scholarship.

He went from there to the Bristol Old Vic and soon was on his way to stardom, helped along by an early success in 1959 at London's Royal Court Theatre in "The Long and The Short and The Tall."

The image of the renegade hell-raiser stayed with O'Toole for decades, although he gave up drinking in 1975 following serious health problems and major surgery.

He did not, however, give up smoking unfiltered Gauloises cigarettes in an ebony holder. That and his penchant for green socks, voluminous overcoats and trailing scarves lent him a rakish air and suited his fondness for drama in the old-fashioned "bravura" manner.

A month before his 80th birthday in 2012, O'Toole announced his retirement from a career that he said had fulfilled him emotionally and financially, bringing "me together with fine people, good companions with whom I've shared the inevitable lot of all actors: flops and hits."

"However, it's my belief that one should decide for oneself when it is time to end one's stay," he said. "So I bid the profession a dry-eyed and profoundly grateful farewell."

In retirement, O'Toole said he would focus on the third volume of his memoirs.

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Wed. (410 PM) 710 PM

**HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG [CC,DV] (NR)** Tue. - Wed. 730 PM

**HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG 3D [CC,DV] (NR)** Tue. - Wed. (300 PM 330 PM) 700 PM

**FROZEN [CC,DV] (PG)** Tue. 745 PM  
Wed. 745 PM

**FROZEN 3D [CC,DV] (PG)** Tue. (515 PM)  
Wed. (515 PM)

**HOMEFRONT [CC,DV] (NR)** Tue. (410 PM)

**DELIVERY MAN [CC,DV] (PG-13)** Tue. - Wed. (430 PM) 720 PM

**HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE [CC,DV] (PG-13)** Tue. - Wed. (345 PM) 715 PM

**THOR: THE DARK WORLD [CC,DV] (PG-13)** Tue. (400 PM)  
Wed. (400 PM)

**THOR: THE DARK WORLD 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13)** Tue. 705 PM  
Wed. 705 PM

Times For 12/17 - 12/18 www.REGmovies.com

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Email resume and cover letter to PIAO Investment Corporation at mapagahes@gmail.com

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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# Cameron sees epic in 'Avatar' films

By NICK PERRY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (AP)—James Cameron says his vision for his three "Avatar" sequels is to create a family epic in the mold of "The Godfather" that will introduce viewers to new cultures and go underwater on his fictional moon Pandora.

The director announced Monday he will be filming the sequels in New Zealand, where he shot the triple Academy Award-winning original. In an interview with The Associated Press, Cameron also talked about life on a New Zealand farm, where he's growing walnuts and allowing his children to roam.

Cameron, 59, said he plans to release the first sequel in 2016, seven years after the release of "Avatar," which has become the highest-grossing film in history with a box office take of nearly \$2.8 billion.

He said a core team has been developing new software for the sequels even while he's been gone on other projects, including 18 months planning a 7-mile descent to the deepest part of the ocean, which he successfully completed last year.

"It's going to be a lot of new imagery and a lot of new environments and creatures across Pandora," he said. "We're blowing it out all over the place. At first I thought I was going to take it onto other worlds as well, in the same solar system, but it turned out not to be necessary. I mean the Pandora that we have imagined will be a fantasy land that is going to occupy people for decades to



In this undated file film publicity image originally released by 20th Century Fox, the character Neytiri, voiced by Zoe Saldana, right, and the character Jake, voiced by Sam Worthington are shown in a scene from, "Avatar."

come, the way I see it."

Cameron said the films will explore different Na'vi cultures as well as the cultures of other Pandora creatures.

"There's a fair bit of underwater stuff. It's been inaccurately said that the second film takes place underwater. That's not true," he said. "There are underwater scenes and surface-water scenes having to do with indigenous ocean cultures that are distributed across the three films."

He said water is enormously difficult to recreate on a computer, something he's been talking about with Joe Letteri, the visual effects supervisor at Weta Digital.

"I said Joe, you know, there's

a lot of water," Cameron said. "And he basically said 'Bring it on. We're ready.'"

He said the first movie focused on the main character, Jake Sully.

"It was very Jake-centric. His story seen through his eyes," Cameron said. "We spread it

around quite a bit more as we go forward. It's really the story of his family, the family that he creates on Pandora. His extended family. So think of it as a family saga like 'The Godfather.'

Cameron said the theme of sustainability that runs through the "Avatar" series also extends to his personal life. He and fifth wife Suzy Amis bought a farm about 90 minutes' drive from Wellington where they spend

## 'Hobbit' box office elite with \$73.7M

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Undaunted hobbits trumped princess power at the multiplex.

Per studio estimates Sunday, Warner Bros. "Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" was No. 1 at the weekend box office with \$73.7 million, besting last weekend's No. 1 film, Disney's animated fable "Frozen."

Melting down to the No. 2 position, "Frozen" earned \$22.2 million in its third weekend, bringing its impressive overall domestic ticket total to nearly \$164.4 million. Internationally, the Disney hit gained \$31.5 million.

Despite its first place position, "The Desolation of Smaug" fell short of topping its prequel's debut. "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," which opened this same weekend last year, gained \$84.6 million. It earned \$131.2 million in international sales.

some of the year with their three children. Cameron said he's putting in 650 walnut trees.

"There'll also be tree crops, grains, produce, it will be quite a mixed bag," he said. "But really, I think of it as an experimental station to look at various sustainable agriculture approaches."

A native of Canada, Cameron said the New Zealand farm feels like "closing a loop" after he spent summers on his grandfather's farm in southern Ontario.

"The kids love it here. They love that combination of freedom and responsibility that you get here because you can run freely," he said. "There are no predators and snakes and that sort of thing. We just let them go out with a walkie-talkie, and as long as they are back by dinner, we don't care where they are."

Lionsgate's holiday-themed "Tyler Perry's a Madea Christmas" came in third place with \$16.2 million.

Another Lionsgate film, "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire," earned \$13.2 million for the fourth place slot. To date "Catching Fire" has grossed \$739.9 million, surpassing the worldwide box office total for "The Hunger Games," which brought in \$691 million.

Disney's super hero sequel, "Thor: The Dark World," continues to thrive as it remained in the top five with \$2.7 million, bringing its domestic total to \$198.1 million.

With only a few weeks left in the year for moviegoers to populate the multiplex, the wide selection of impressive films fares well for eclipsing 2012's box office record of \$10.8 billion.

1. "Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug," \$73.7 million (\$131.2 international).
2. "Frozen," \$22.2 million (\$31.5 million international).
3. "Tyler Perry's a Madea Christmas," \$16 million.
4. "Hunger Games: Catching Fire," \$13.2 million (\$19.5 million international).
5. "Thor: The Dark World," \$2.7 million (\$1.3 million international).
6. "Out of the Furnace," \$2.3 million.
7. "Delivery Man," \$1.9 million.
8. "Philomena," \$1.8 million.
9. "The Book Thief," \$1.7 million.
10. "Homefront," \$1.6 million.

## For Dion, new single, CBS special, 'Voice' appearance

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Virtually every entertainer has a misfire.

But it's news when an album by one of the best-selling recording artists in history quickly tumbles down the charts.

Celine Dion's first all-new English-language album in six years, "Loved Me Back to Life," entered the Billboard 200 at No. 2. But just five weeks later, it's plummeted to No. 35.

"Of course, the record company wants to be the No. 1," said Dion. "They want to sell records. They want to make money. And don't get me wrong, I want to. But I'm proud about what I have done with this record."

According to the Metacritic website, the majority of the album's reviews have been positive. And even some of the negative critiques have paused to praise Dion's emerging vocal maturity.

Over the next few days, millions will hear a sample when



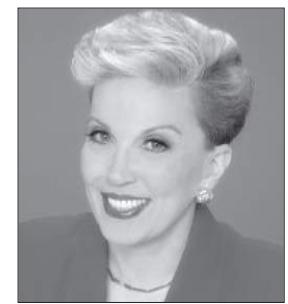
Dion

The singer and her husband René Angélil have three biological sons, all through in-vitro fertilization. "But adoption (had) always been taken into consideration," she added.

The 45-year-old Dion said motherhood is the cornerstone of her life, as well as what propels her career, which also includes a recent return to residency at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace Las Vegas.

## Overeager mother-in-law spoils birthday surprise

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby*

**DEAR ABBY:** My mother-in-law sent my 7-year-old son a gift and a card for his birthday. They arrived about a week early. A few days before his birthday, she called and asked if he had received them. He said he had, but before he could explain that he hadn't opened them, she started talking about the gift inside, revealing the surprise.

I have now "heard" she's upset with me and my son for this awkward moment. She says that from now on she would like a phone call when her cards or gifts arrive, so she can "hear his enjoyment over the phone even if they arrive early." I don't think my son did anything wrong.

When a gift arrives in advance of an occasion, must it be opened immediately? Or can it wait for the actual birthday or Christmas? Sometimes he likes to open one present at a time, write a thank-you note, then open the next, stretching out his gift-opening over a few days. Is this a social no-no?

WONDERING IN WASHINGTON

**DEAR WONDERING:** Gifts are usually opened the day of the occasion. When the occasion is a birthday, the usual expectation is that the presents will be opened at the party. At that time a verbal thank-you is offered. A thank-you note should be written a very short time later.

Your mother-in-law may have called for reassurance that her gift had arrived. She should not have revealed what it was. You did nothing wrong. The mistake was hers.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My good friend "Derek" is in his 30s and just started his first serious relationship. He told me after a week together that she was "the One" and that he loved her. I told him I was happy for him and suggested he take things slow so they could really get to know each other.

I had a party two nights ago where he introduced his new girlfriend. They spent most of the time making out like teenagers in front of everyone. Some guests were so uncomfortable they left early.

I haven't seen Derek since, and I'm worried not only that he's moving too fast to make up for lost time, but that he's doing it with someone who also is oblivious to how socially unacceptable their behavior was. I'm not sure how to express my concerns to my friend without hurting him.

CONCERNED IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR CONCERNED:** It would not be rude or hurtful for you to mention to Derek that you think the girl is "great"—but the show they put on at your party made some of your other guests so uncomfortable they left early. Let's hope the "hint" is sufficient.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My 10-year-old daughter told a friend she would go to a concert with her a few months ago. Since then, my daughter decided to end the friendship because the girl was clingy, dramatic and controlling.

Do I insist my daughter go to the concert as she said she would, or let her off the hook? The friend seems to be hoping she will go so they can renew the friendship, but my daughter has no plans to do it. Please help!

MANAGING DISCORD IN MINNESOTA

**DEAR MOM:** If the girl is expecting your daughter to go to the concert with her, your daughter should tell her she does NOT plan to attend so the girl can invite someone else. Do not insist that your daughter associate with anyone who makes her feel uncomfortable. Her reason for pulling back from that relationship showed good judgment.

*Dear Abby* is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: *Dear Abby*, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



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Experience with payroll processing and accounts payable, including enforcement of company policies and adherence to company procedures  
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Effective oral and written communications skills  
Technical knowledge of Quickbooks Accounting software

Understand banking operations and knowledge of ACH network for direct deposit payroll processing and FICA transmittals  
Knowledge of CNMI, and US Federal taxes including compliance and form preparation of, but not limited to,  
Form 500, Quarterly withholding taxes, payroll taxes, etc.  
Working experience with Microsoft Excel/Pivot Table, Microsoft Outlook and Microsoft Word

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Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.

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# Dolphins foil comeback bid, beat Patriots, 24-20



MIAMI GARDENS, Florida

(AP)—Tom Brady's latest comeback bid came up short, and the Miami Dolphins helped their playoff chances with a 24-20 breakthrough victory Sunday over the AFC East-leading New England Patriots.

A fourth-down pass from Brady was intercepted by reserve safety Michael Thomas, in his first NFL game, in the end zone with 2 seconds left, and Miami held on to win.

The Patriots had mounted second-half rallies to win their past three games, and Brady moved them from their own 20 with 1:15 remaining to the Miami 14. But he threw three consecutive incompletions before Thomas sealed the third consecutive victory for the Dolphins (8-6), who improved to 5-2 since tackle Jonathan Martin left the team in a bullying scandal.

Miami snapped a streak of seven consecutive losses against the Patriots (10-4). Ryan Tannehill threw for 312 yards and three touchdown passes, including a 14-yarder to Marcus Thigpen with 1:15 left that provided the winning margin.

Brady went 34 for 55 for 364 yards and two scores. Julian Edelman made 13 catches for 139 yards, and Danny Amendola added 10 receptions for 131 yards.

## Vikings 48, Eagles 30

In Minneapolis, Matt Cassel passed for 382 yards and two touchdowns and ran for another score to lead the injury-depleted Vikings over Philadelphia, snapping the Eagles' five-game winning streak.

With Adrian Peterson and Toby Gerhart out, Matt Asiata rushed for the first three touchdowns of his career and Greg Jennings caught a career-high 11 passes for 163 yards for the Vikings (4-9-1). Asiata ran for 51 yards on 30 carries.

Nick Foles threw for 428 yards with three touchdowns and one interception and DeSean Jackson had 10 catches for 195 yards and a score for the Eagles (8-6). They started the day with a one-game lead over Dallas in the NFC East.

## Chiefs 56, Raiders 31

In Oakland, California, Jamaal Charles tied a franchise record with five touchdowns in a game and gained 215 yards from scrimmage as the Chiefs beat the Raiders and clinched at least a wild-card spot.

Alex Smith threw five TD passes, going 17 for 20 for 287 yards to make the Chiefs the fourth team ever to make the playoffs a year after losing at least 14 games. Kansas City (11-3) is tied for first place in the AFC West with Denver but needs help to win the division because the Broncos swept the season series.

Matt McGloin threw four interceptions and lost a fumble



New England Patriots tight end Michael Hoamanawanui (47) grabs a touchdown pass as Miami Dolphins outside linebacker Philip Wheeler (52) defends during the first half of an NFL football game on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2013, in Miami Gardens, Fla. AP

while sharing time with Terrelle Pryor as Oakland (4-10) allowed the most points in franchise history and lost its fourth straight game. The Raiders had seven turnovers overall.

## Packers 37, Cowboys 36

In Arlington, Texas, Matt Flynn threw four touchdown passes in the second half, Eddie Lacy had the winning score on a 1-yard plunge after an interception by Tony Romo gave them another chance, and Green Bay rallied from 23 points down at halftime to beat Dallas.

Romo tossed two interceptions in the final 3 minutes, the first one giving Green Bay a chance for the go-ahead score with the Cowboys in position to run out the clock with a 36-31 lead. Lacy scored with just over 1-1/2 minutes left.

Playing on the same field where they won the 2011 Super Bowl, the Packers matched the 1982 team, which rallied past the Los Angeles Rams after trailing by 23.

## Steelers 30, Bengals 20

In Pittsburgh, Antonio Brown caught a touchdown pass and returned a punt for a score in a 64-second span in the first quarter as Pittsburgh beat Cincinnati.

Shaun Suisham added three field goals for the Steelers (6-8), who built a 24-point lead and hardly looked like a team playing out the string.

Ben Roethlisberger completed 20 of 25 passes for 191 yards with a touchdown and an interception. Le'Veon Bell added 117 yards of total offense.

The Bengals (9-5), looking to move closer to a third straight playoff berth, were undone by a series of special teams miscues.

## Falcons 27, Redskins 26

In Atlanta, Desmond Trufant deflected Kirk Cousins' pass on a potential winning 2-point

conversion with 18 seconds remaining, and the Atlanta Falcons edged the Washington Redskins.

The Falcons (4-10) scored 20 points off seven Washington turnovers. The Redskins (3-11) tied a team record with five lost fumbles.

Cousins passed for 381 yards and three touchdowns, but had three turnovers in his first start of the season after coach Mike Shanahan decided to bench Robert Griffin III. Griffin watched from the sideline. Cousins' touchdown pass to Santana Moss gave Washington a chance to force overtime by kicking the extra point. Instead, Cousins' attempted go-ahead 2-point pass for Pierre Garcon was deflected by Trufant.

## 49ers 33, Buccaneers 14

In Tampa Bay, Florida, Vernon Davis caught a touchdown pass for the fifth straight game and Michael Crabtree scored his first TD since returning from injury to help the San Francisco 49ers beat the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The victory was the fourth straight for Colin Kaepernick and the 49ers (10-4), who pulled away for good with a 10-minute, fourth-quarter drive that produced a field goal. Kendall Hunter put it well out of reach, scooping up a fumble on the ensuing kickoff and diving 2 yards into the end zone for a touchdown.

Tampa Bay got within 20-14 on Mike Glennon's TD pass to Tim Wright on the first play of the fourth quarter. The Bucs (4-10) didn't get the ball back until after Kaepernick used 17 plays to march the 49ers 77 yards into position for Phil Dawson to kick one of his four field goals, extending his franchise-record streak of consecutive successful attempts to 24.

Kaepernick completed 19 of 29 passes for 203 yards, two touchdowns and no interceptions. Frank Gore rushed for 86 yards to go over 1,000 in a season for the seventh time in his career.

## Seahawks 23, Giants 0

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Richard Sherman had two interceptions, Marshawn Lynch scored on a twisting, triple-effort 2-yard run, and Steven Hauschka kicked three field goals as Seattle manhandled the New York Giants for its sixth road win.

Russell Wilson toyed with New York's defense, running for 50 yards and throwing for 206 and a touchdown before sitting out the last few minutes. Wilson has 23 wins, the most for a quarterback in his first two seasons in the Super Bowl era.

The Seahawks (12-2) are closing in on the NFC West title and their best overall record; they went 13-3 in 2005 before losing to Pittsburgh in the Super Bowl.

Eli Manning was picked off a career-worst five times, with Byron Maxwell also getting two. The Giants (5-9) have their first losing record since 2004, and lost top receiver Victor Cruz to a concussion in the fourth quarter. Cruz is 2 yards short of his third straight 1,000-yard season.

## Bears 38, Browns 31

In Cleveland, Jay Cutler shook off some early rustiness and threw three touchdown passes in his first start since Nov. 10, leading Chicago past Cleveland.

Cutler, who missed Chicago's previous four games with a sprained left ankle, threw a 4-yard TD pass to Earl Bennett with 5:41 left as Bears (8-6) rallied in the second half and stayed in contention for an NFC

playoff spot. Cutler finished 22 of 31 for 265 yards and validated coach Marc Trestman's decision to stick with him over backup Josh McCown, who had played well while filling in for Chicago's starter.

Michael Bush's 40-yard TD run with 2:17 left sealed it for the Bears, who completed a four-game sweep of the AFC North and won their first road game since Nov. 4, when McCown led them to a win over Green Bay.

## Colts 25, Texans 3

In Indianapolis, Andrew Luck threw two touchdown passes, and Robert Mathis broke Indianapolis' single-season and career sacks records by forcing a second-half safety to lead the Colts past Houston.

Luck finished 19 of 32 for 180 yards with one interception and needed only two quarters to put up 20 points, four short of Indy's combined first-half point total from the previous six games. But the Colts (9-5) did it against a team that has lost 12 straight overall and is 0-12 all-time in Indy.

Mathis, the NFL sacks leader, now has 16½ this season and 108 in his career, breaking the franchise records held by long-time teammate and close friend Dwight Freeney.

Case Keenum was 18 of 34 for 168 yards for Houston (2-12), and also was stripped of the ball by Mathis in the end zone, which led to the safety.

## Panthers 30, Jets 20

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Cam Newton threw for 273 yards and a touchdown, Captain Munnerlyn had two sacks and returned an interception for a score and the Panthers bounced back from their most lopsided loss of the season.

With New Orleans losing 27-

16 to St. Louis, the Panthers (10-4) pulled even with the Saints with the rematch set for next Sunday in Charlotte. If Carolina wins its final two games, it will clinch the division and the first-round bye. The Panthers haven't been to the postseason since 2008.

Carolina's defense, which surrendered 313 yards and four touchdowns in a 31-13 loss to New Orleans, came up big limiting rookie quarterback Geno Smith to 167 yards passing, while sacking him four times.

The Jets (6-8) will be eliminated from playoff contention if Baltimore wins at Detroit on Monday night. Rookie defensive lineman Sheldon Richardson bulldozed his way for a 1-yard touchdown run on a goal-line play.

## Rams 27, Saints 16

In St. Louis, Drew Brees threw interceptions that led to touchdowns on New Orleans' first two possessions. St. Louis got big days from Zac Stacy, Robert Quinn and on special teams in the victory.

Quinn had two sacks, giving him an NFC-leading 15, and his quarterback hit on the Saints' first snap of the game altered the flight of the ball on T.J. McDonald's interception.

The Saints (10-4) missed their first chance to clinch a playoff berth, trailing 24-3 at the half, but made it look respectable with two touchdowns in the fourth quarter.

Kellen Clemens threw for two TDs in the first quarter, matching his best performance in seven games as the fill-in starter for Sam Bradford. The Rams (6-8) recovered an on-side kick to set up a field goal in the first quarter, and Michael Brockers blocked a field-goal attempt at the end of the half.

## Cardinals 37, Titans 34, OT

In Nashville, Tennessee, Jay Feely kicked a 41-yard field goal in overtime, and the Arizona Cardinals edged the Tennessee Titans in overtime after blowing a 17-point lead late in the fourth quarter.

Still, the Cardinals (9-5) won their sixth in seven games. With San Francisco and Carolina winning, they remained a game back of both for a NFC wild-card berth.

The Titans scored 17 points in the final 3:12 of regulation to force overtime with Ryan Fitzpatrick throwing two of his four TD passes to Michael Preston. They also recovered an on-side kick to set up the tying TD with 10 seconds left in regulation. They won the toss and drove to the Cardinals 43 before Antoine Cason intercepted his second pass of the game.

Tennessee (5-9) lost its third straight and eighth in 10 games. The Titans also lost their fifth consecutive home game for the first time since moving to Tennessee in 1997.

# Gay scores 26 to lead Kings past Rockets, 106-91

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** (AP)—Rudy Gay scored 26 points in his first home game since coming over in a trade from Toronto, leading the Sacramento Kings past the Houston Rockets 106-91 Sunday night.

Gay added five rebounds and four assists. He finished 10-for-20 shooting in a dazzling home debut for the Kings, who had lost eight of their past 10 games.

DeMarcus Cousins had 21 points and 10 rebounds, and Isaiah Thomas added 19 points and eight assists to help Sacramento hold on to the lead for most of the final three quarters.

James Harden twisted his left ankle early in the third quarter but finished with 25 points, and Dwight Howard had 13 points and 10 rebounds while battling foul trouble in a disappointing end to Houston's cramped three-game road trip. The Rockets lost at Portland on Thursday and won at Golden State on Friday. Rockets assistant Kelvin Sampson filled in for Kevin McHale all three games following the death of McHale's mother. Guard Jeremy Lin sat out with back spasms and forward Terrence Jones had two points and five assists while playing just 15 minutes because of flu-like symptoms.

Sacramento's newest attraction seized the opportunity.

Gay, who came over in a seven-player trade from Toronto last the week, had 24 points in the loss at Phoenix on Friday. He started quickly in his first game at home for Sacramento, scoring 14 points in the first quarter, including a series of scintillating drives and dunks.

As Houston's mistakes piled up, Sacramento surged ahead.

The Kings took advantage of 11 turnovers by the Rockets in the first half to go ahead 48-38 late in the second quarter. They had six turnovers in the second half.



Sacramento Kings forward Rudy Gay (8) scores around Houston Rockets point guard Aaron Brooks (0) and Rockets forward Greg Smith, back left, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Sacramento, Calif., Sunday, Dec. 15, 2013.

Harden gave Houston a bigger scare when he twisted his left ankle stepping on Ben McLemore's foot while driving through traffic early in the third quarter. Harden lay on the hardwood for a couple minutes, but stayed in the game to make both free throws—lifting his left foot in the air—before limping to the locker room.

Harden returned later in the quarter, and appeared slightly hampered. The Rockets also struggled to regroup, especially with Howard on the bench with his fourth foul.

The Kings, who led by as many as 12 points, entered the fourth quarter with an 81-71 lead. They went ahead by 18 late in the fourth and never relented.

**Trail Blazers 111, Pistons 109, OT**

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Damion Lillard hit a spinning fadeaway with one-tenth of a second left in overtime to lift Portland over Detroit.

Lillard was guarded well by Rodney Stuckey as he tried to drive to the basket, but he was able to hit a tough fadeaway from about 8 feet. Detroit couldn't get off a shot before the buzzer.

LaMarcus Aldridge scored 27 points for Portland, which rallied from a 13-point deficit in the fourth quarter. Lillard finished with 23 points.

Josh Smith scored 31 points, his most since signing with the Pistons as a free agent in the off-season.

**Timberwolves 101, Grizzlies 93**

In Memphis, Tennessee, Kevin Love had 30 points and nine rebounds, Minnesota hit a season-high 12 3-pointers in beating Memphis.

The victory snapped Minnesota's 11-game losing streak to the Grizzlies and also gave the Timberwolves their third win in the last four.

Love was 11 of 21 from the field, including 4 of 8 from outside the arc as Minnesota converted 12 of 26 from long range. Minnesota had made 11 3-pointers six times this season, including in Friday's loss at San Antonio. Nikola Pekovic scored 19 points, while reserve J.J. Barea had 15. Ricky Rubio

finished with 12 points.

Mike Conley led the Grizzlies with 28 points before leaving with just under 4 minutes left with a bruised left thigh. Zach Randolph had 20 points and 12 rebounds.

**Suns 106, Warriors 102**

In Phoenix, Eric Bledsoe scored seven of his 24 points in the fourth quarter as Phoenix won its fifth straight game, holding off Stephen Curry and Golden State.

Bledsoe added eight rebounds and eight assists, Goran Dragic scored 21 points, and Channing Frye added 20 for the Suns.

Curry scored 30 points, including 20 in the second half, and Klay Thompson added 19

for the Warriors, who have lost three of four. David Lee added 18 points and 13 rebounds for his fifth straight double-double.

Golden State trailed by as many as nine in the third quarter, but pulled to within 76-75 on Curry's 3-pointer that capped a 10-2 Golden State run.

**Thunder 101, Magic 98**

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant had 28 points, nine rebounds and five assists, as Oklahoma City held off Orlando to win its 12th straight home game to open the season.

Russell Westbrook added 20 points, 12 rebounds and six assists for Oklahoma City, which has won six straight overall and 14 of its last 15. The Thunder have beaten the Magic in five straight meetings.

An 11-1 run near the end of the first half gave Oklahoma City control until Orlando rallied within two points in the final minute. Durant hit a free throw and Serge Ibaka blocked a shot by Nikola Vucevic to preserve the win.

Arron Afflalo scored 25 points and Vucevic had 13 points and 16 rebounds for Orlando, which has lost 11 of its 13 road games this season.

**Nuggets 102, Pelicans 93**

In Denver, J.J. Hickson had 19 points and 11 rebounds as Denver overcame a slow start to beat New Orleans.

Wilson Chandler added 19 to help the Nuggets bounce back from a rare home loss on Friday. They're 7-3 at Pepsi Center this season after going a franchise-best 38-3 in 2012-13.

Ryan Anderson scored 26 and Austin Rivers chipped in a season-high 17 for the Pelicans, who began a five-game road swing. They were without guard Tyreke Evans, who sat out with a sprained left ankle.

"bringing joy to Texas" and doing it with integrity. Asked if he had any regrets, Brown said the only ones were the death of player Cole Pittman in 2001 and the 1999 accident with the Texas A&M bonfire that killed 12.

The search to replace Brown begins almost immediately, but Powers and Patterson gave few hints as to who may be on a list of potential candidates. Patterson, barely a month on the job after being hired from Arizona State, must find a coach who can handle the pressure of being the face of the wealthiest athletic program in the country.

"And you've got to win. You've got to win big," Patterson said. "We'll find the best football coach we can."

Patterson gave no timeline for a hiring a coach and said he'd meet with Powers to establish the criteria for the job search. Powers insisted Patterson would be in charge of the search and "will hire the next coach."

## Brown says he wasn't meeting his own standard

**AUSTIN, Texas** (AP)—For a decade, Mack Brown and the Texas Longhorns won more games than almost any other program in the country.

It was the inability to meet those lofty expectations over the last four years that pushed Brown to resign after 16 years, ending an era that included the national championship following the 2005 season.

"The standard is really high here," Brown said Sunday at a campus news conference to explain his decision. "We set a standard at this place. You'd better win all of them. I understand that. ... The standard is really high here and I'm proud of being part of setting that standard."

From 2000-09, Brown's



In this Oct. 6, 2012, file photo, Texas coach Mack Brown calls for a timeout during the third quarter of an NCAA college football game against West Virginia in Austin, Texas.

teams averaged more than 10 wins a season, captured two

Big 12 titles, won a national

ing season, and the Longhorns have lost at least four games for four consecutive years.

Brown said he knew that wasn't good enough. It was time to find a new coach to guide the Longhorns back among the national elite and heal a fractured fan base that had grown impatient. His final game will be the Dec. 30 Alamo Bowl against Oregon.

Brown was under contract until 2020 with a salary at more than \$5 million per year. He will stay on as a special consultant to President Bill Powers, a role that his current contract stipulates would pay him up to \$500,000. Details of any further compensation for Brown were not immediately available.

Texas had expected a return to championship form this season, but a 1-2 start ignited months of speculation

that Brown would retire or be forced out. Texas rallied with six straight wins, then dropped two of its last three games. A chance to win the Big 12 title was lost to Baylor in the finale.

Brown met with Powers and athletic director Steve Patterson on Friday to discuss his future. Brown said both told him he could stay, but after sleeping on it Friday night and talking it over with his wife, he decided it was the right time to resign.

"I felt like I could stay," Brown said. "I really felt like it wasn't best for the university to stay."

Powers said he was not pressured by the school's board of regents to help push Brown out of the job.

"I was not given any direction at all from any regent," Powers said. "This is the transition of one of the great football coaches in the country."

Brown said he hoped he would be remembered for

# Rios insists 'he is not a dirty fighter,' questions final drug test

By MARK GIONGCO  
INQUIRER.NET



**MANILA, Philippines**—Mexican-American boxer Brandon Rios denied using illegal substances and insisted that he is not a dirty fighter after he reportedly failed his post-fight drug test Saturday (Manila time).

"Like I told you man, I know I'm not dirty; I'm not a dirty fighter," Rios, who absorbed a unanimous decision setback over Manny Pacquiao last November 24 in Macau, China, told Yahoo! Sports in a telephone interview.

"If they want to test me 24-7, day and night, day and night, they could test me all they want. I know I don't take no steroids. I don't take no drugs. I don't take no diet supplements or [expletive] like that. The way I fight, I'm all natural. I'm a strong [expletive].

"I take a punch very well. When I lose



In this Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2013 photo released by The Venetian Macao, Brandon Rios of the United States, accompanied by his trainer Robert Garcia, left, arrives at the main lobby of the Venetian Macao in Macau.

weight ... this is the first time I've lost weight the right way. I followed a diet plan and I had an actual nutritionist."

The 27-year-old Rios passed the first four tests but failed the final test given by the Voluntary Anti-Doping Agency (VADA), which raised eyebrows in the Rios camp as far as the procedure is concerned.

With SIS and Whispering Palms surviving the playoffs, they arranged an all-Northern Group finale. Whispering Palms finished on top of the Northern Group with its 4-1-0 win-draw-loss record and notched the first playoff berth in the division. The Terns scored 24 goals—the most in the group—and gave up only three in the round-robin regular season.

SIS placed second in the Northern Group with its 3-2-1 slate and collected nine goals. Other schools entered in the Northern Group were Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School (3-1-1), Oleai Elementary School (2-0-3), Garapan Elementary School (1-0-4), and Mount Carmel School (0-0-5).

In the Southern Group, WSR finished ahead of the pack with its perfect

Rios tested positive for dimethylamylamine, commonly known as DMAA, a stimulant found "in the over-the-counter fitness supplement Jack3d."

DMAA is also a substance banned both by VADA and the World Anti-Doping Agency. The former lightweight champion questioned the collection process of the last test.

5-0-0 card, while San Antonio came in second with its 4-0-1 mark to move into the playoffs. Koblerville Elementary School (4-0-1), San Vicente Elementary (3-0-3), Kagman Elementary School (2-0-3), and Dandan Elementary School (0-0-5) were eliminated.

Besides ruling its group, San Antonio also earned the most goals in the regular season with 28 and allowed its foes to score only three. In the playoffs, San Antonio failed to maintain its momentum and settled for the third place trophy after beating WSR in the consolation match last Saturday.

The trophies for the Top 4 finishers were handed out in a brief awards ceremony last Saturday afternoon. The organizing Northern Mariana Islands Football Association awarded trophies

"The collector did not bring a sealed collection kit with him to his suite," Rios said, saying he only urinated in a glass and not in a regular container.

"This time, he had me [urinate] in a regular glass, and a lot of [expletives] touched that cup," Rios said. "A lot of people touched that cup and put [expletive] in it. They just washed it with dish wash, or whatever they do it with. That's why I'm suspicious, because they had me [urinate] in a regular cup, not one of the containers like they always had me do before."

Rios added: "I had to wait 20 minutes [for someone to bring a sealed collection kit] and my [urine] wasn't even warm no more. It was cold."

After passing several tests, Rios also found it odd that the timing of his failed test only came after a scuffle had broken out between his conditioning coach Alex Ariza and Pacquiao trainer Freddie Roach.

to top individual performers, too. Tenorio was given the Golden Boot award, while SIS' Clayton Izuka took the Golden Glove honors.

Tenorio and the rest of Whispering Palms players were also presented with the perpetual trophy, which was previously won by Koblerville (2008), Saipan Community School (2009 and 2010), GTC (2011), and WSR (2012). Joining Tenorio on the champion team were Justin Albuen, Parker Callier, Cole Chambers, Kaden and Max Chruch, Spencer Dickinson, Anthony Fruit, Steven Goodwin, Gang Min Kim, Allan Lee, Nolan Mariano, Logan and Blake Mister, Beckham Richards, Sam Ryu, Rex Tavera Jon Villagomez, and Dominic Zedde. Mark Epley and Jeff Race are Whispering Palms' coaches.

## WHISPERING

From Page 28

tonio Elementary School in the other finals match of the weekend.

Whispering Palms advanced to the finals after topping the round-robin playoffs last week at the Hopwood pitch. It cruised to a 4-0 victory over San Antonio Elementary School in the first round match last Tuesday and had another convincing win against 2012 champion William S. Reyes Elementary School last Wednesday. Then in the third round last Thursday, Whispering Palms won the finals peek against SIS, 1-0. The Geckos had earlier prevailed in their first two playoff games, shutting out San Antonio last Tuesday, 4-0, and thwarting WSR last Wednesday, 1-0.

## I LOVE

From Page 28

ticket after ousting San Roque, 77-54.

In the second match of the night, I Love Saipan leaned on the combined efforts of Mike Olaitiman, Gyles Ruluked, and Bryan Lontoc to break the back of the favored Fong's Bakery, which finished second in Pool A in the regular season and won three of their last four games in the eliminations to take the outright quarterfinal berth.

Ruluked, who scored 21 points in their 79-75 triumph against CJ Signs in the first round of the playoffs, picked up where he left off, knocking in 11 early points to give I Love Saipan a 19-14 lead at the end of the opening canto. Lontoc and Olaitiman made the four other baskets of I Love Saipan in the first frame.

Then in the second, Olaitiman dropped I Love Saipan's first 5 markers and nailed 2 more points, while Ru-

luked added 6 more to keep the team's distance against Fong's at halftime, 34-29.

Lontoc was held scoreless in the second quarter, but showed up in the third with 8 points to help Olaitiman tow I Love Saipan's offense as fatigue began to take its toll on Ruluked. The trio then joined forces anew in the fourth with Ruluked and Lontoc scoring 8 of I Love Saipan's first 10 points, while Olaitiman nailed 7 of their last 9 markers.

Olaitiman went on to top top-score for I Love Saipan with his 23 points, while Lontoc finished with 16. Edwin Santos and J.R. Barrios had 13 points apiece for Fong's Bakery, which also drew double figures from three other players, but their baskets were not enough to counter the steady trio of I Love Saipan.

Meanwhile, Docomo held San Roque to 7 points in the final canto to notch the 23-point victory.

Docomo was ahead by only 9 at the

end of the third period, 56-47, before dominating San Roque in the fourth for the easy win. Rolly Paraiso anchored the fourth-quarter attack, as he outgunned the entire San Roque crew with his 11 points, eight of them were scored in streak early in the final frame. San Roque fell short in the fourth, nailing only three field goals.

Paraiso finished with 16 points, while Eugene Manglona had 17 for San Roque, but was scoreless in the fourth quarter collapse. San Roque played catch up from start to finish after missing key players in the first half. Angelo Fernando suited up for San Roque in the third and contributed only 5 points, a far cry from the 26 markers he recorded in their 64-56 playoff victory over Natural Mystic last week.

With Docomo and I Love Saipan in the Final Four, only two semis berths are left. Island Floral and Chinatown dueled for the third semis seat last night, while San Antonio and NMI

Sablan and Down2Scrap's Jonathan Outlaw" Camacho put on a show right at the opening bell. The first minute of the three-minute round saw Sablan unloading crosses and combinations and Camacho counter-attacking. When the heat subsided and with both fighters throwing wayward punches midway in the opening round, Camacho tried to use his feet to destabilize Sablan. The round ended with Sablan ahead by only a few points.

In the second round, Sablan returned the favor on Camacho with his strong kicks and mixed it up with a flurry of punches. He went on to corner Camacho and that was it for the latter, as ref-

Contractor battled for the fourth and final semis slot. The two remaining quarterfinals pairing were originally scheduled for Saturday, but were rained-out.

### First Game

**Docomo 77** – Paraiso 16, Sison 16, Tudela 12, Villacrusis 10, Sanciangco 10, Montes 4, Camacho 4.

**San Roque 54** – Manglona 17, Ali-pio 10, Mi. Achas 6, Fernando 5, Mc. Achas 5, Guiang 3, Gapor 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 17-12, 41-33, 56-47, 77-54.

### Second Game

**I Love Saipan 75** – Olaitiman 23, Ruluked 21, Lontoc 16, Cristobal 9, Rabago 4, Aldan 2.

**Fong's Bakery 68** – Santos 13, Barrios 13, Guntar 10, Reyes 10, Bahillo 10, David 6, Camacho 4.

**Scoring by quarters:** 19-14, 34-29, 57-45, 75-68.

## FIRST-TIMERS

From Page 28

shots to Langu's lower and upper body. Van Der Maas was then gassed out in the uneventful second round before going back to his aggressive mode in the third round, while Langu just tried to survive the fight by evading his foe's long kicks.

Joining Van Der Maas on the winners list in the K1 fights of Trench Tech's season-ending offering were Guam Muay Thai's Kyle "300" Martin and the returning Lenny "The Machine Gun" Sablan.

Martin's K1 bout against Trench Tech's Benjie Estoquie also ended in

Sablan and Down2Scrap's Jonathan Outlaw" Camacho put on a show right at the opening bell. The first minute of the three-minute round saw Sablan unloading crosses and combinations and Camacho counter-attacking. When the heat subsided and with both fighters throwing wayward punches midway in the opening round, Camacho tried to use his feet to destabilize Sablan. The round ended with Sablan ahead by only a few points.

In the second round, Sablan returned the favor on Camacho with his strong kicks and mixed it up with a flurry of punches. He went on to corner Camacho and that was it for the latter, as ref-

eree Tony D'Angelo called it a night at the 1:26 mark of Round 2. Camacho took too much punishment that he had to be carried out of the octagon cage by his cornermen.

Meanwhile, Wanket made the grade in his first MMA assignment, earning a victory via verbal submission against independent fighter Franklin Agulto.

Wanket won despite getting hit by an illegal kick early in the first round. He and Agulto tried to held each other down and D'Angelo ordered both fighters to separate, but when Wanket tried to move way, Agulto unleashed a kick. Wanket was hit on his chin and was giv-

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

##### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	11	14	.440	—
Toronto	9	13	.409	1/2
Brooklyn	8	15	.348	2
New York	7	16	.304	3
Philadelphia	7	18	.280	4

##### Southeast Division

Miami	17	6	.739	—
Atlanta	12	12	.500	5 1/2
Charlotte	10	14	.417	7 1/2
Washington	9	13	.409	7 1/2
Orlando	7	17	.292	10 1/2

##### Central Division

Indiana	20	3	.870	—
Detroit	11	14	.440	10
Chicago	9	13	.409	10 1/2
Cleveland	9	14	.391	11
Milwaukee	5	19	.208	15 1/2

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

##### Southwest Division

San Antonio	19	4	.826	—
Houston	16	9	.640	4
Dallas	14	10	.583	5 1/2
New Orleans	11	11	.500	7 1/2
Memphis	10	13	.435	9

##### Northwest Division

Portland	21	4	.840	—
Oklahoma City	19	4	.826	1
Denver	14	9	.609	6
Minnesota	12	12	.500	8 1/2
Utah	6	20	.231	15 1/2

# 2013 UFO-Budweiser Masters Basketball League Finals

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Blue Haus' Edsel Mendoza pulls up for a jumper against Armatech's Bruce Berline during their title game in the 2013 UFO-Budweiser Masters Division Basketball League Finals early this month at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium. Blue Haus won, 88-79.



Blue Haus' Edwin Santos bulldozes his way for a shot against Armatech's Bernard Montano.



Blue Haus' Junar Guiab pulls up for a shot against Armatech's Yosh Gabaldon.



Armatech's Sonny Ebuen attempts a jumper against Blue Haus' Edwin Santos.



Armatech's Yosh Gabaldon, left, and Bruce Berline, right, sandwich Blue Haus' Junar Guiab.



Blue Haus' Gus Palacios, left, hangs on to the ball after colliding with Armatech's Bruce Berline.



Blue Haus' Bryan Manabat plucks the rebound against Armatech's Bong Malasarte.



Armatech's Haejun Parks goes up for a shot against Blue Haus' Junar Guiab, left, and Sam Fernandez.



Blue Haus' Francis Rebuyon pulls up for a fadeaway shot.



Armatech's Martin Moreno loses the ball after drawing a foul against Blue Haus' Edwin Santos.



Dolphins foil comeback bid,  
beat Patriots, 24-20

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Gay scores 26 to  
lead Kings past  
Rockets, 106-91

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



ROSELYN B. MONROY

Whispering Palms players and coaches pose with their championship and pennant trophies during the awards ceremony the 2013-2014 NMIFA/PSS Interscholastic Football League last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field. Also in the photo are league and game officials.

## Whispering Palms completes IFL sweep

By ROSELYN B. MONROY  
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REPORTER

Whispering Palms swept the 2013-2014 NMIFA/PSS Interscholastic Football League as its boys team also prevailed in the finals against Saipan International School, 1-0, last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

## First-timers deliver in Trench Warz 17



By ROSELYN B. MONROY  
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REPORTER

Trench Tech's Jasper "The Disaster" Van Der Maas and Down2Scrap's Kai-noa "The Ghost" Wan-ket won their debuts in Trench Warz 17: Night of the Champions last Friday night at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Van Der Maas was pitted against in-



Sunjoon Tenorio's goal in the 27th minute lifted

Whispering Palms to the title win, the school's second on the same day, as its girls team had earlier defeated San An-

See WHISPERING  
on Page 26

dependent fighter Jones Langu in one of the kickboxing bouts last weekend and used his height and reach advantage to earn a victory via unanimous decision. The three judges scored the three-round K1 fight, 30-27, 30-27, 30-27. The Trench Tech cadet let go off a big kick to start the third and last K1 battle of the night and connected on some solid

See FIRST-TIMERS on Page 26

Jones Langu, right, tries to keep his balance, while taking cover against a long kick from Trench Tech's Jasper "The Disaster" Van Der Maas during the opening round of their kickboxing bout in Trench Warz 17: Night of the Champions last Friday night at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

ROSELYN B. MONROY

## I Love Saipan marches into semis

By ROSELYN B. MONROY  
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REPORTER



I Love Saipan's upset axe hit Fong's Bakery as the quarterfinal round of the 2nd DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League started last Friday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

I Love Saipan, which took the last playoff berth in Pool B and eliminated third-ranked CJ Signs last Wednesday, this time stunned second-seeded Fong's Bakery, 75-68, to bag the second semis berth in the tournament. Earlier in the first game, Docomo Pacific booked a semis

See I LOVE on Page 26

Mike Olaitman, seen here going up for a shot against CJ Signs' Freddie Litulmar, scored 23 points in their 75-68 playoff win over Fong's Bakery in the DL Corp. caging last Friday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROY